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African Violet

MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 1954

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1

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African Violet Magazine



SMITHSONIAN

MAY 27 1954

A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL STAFF

Vol. 8

September 1954

No. 1

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THE CHRISTENING

Myrtle Love Hester, Florence, Ala.

Oh, come to my house,
A Christening to see,
Friends of my violet club,
And visit with me.
For I have new babies,
Not just one -- but three,
And they need a-naming,
So hurry, please, to me.
They are frilled and bedecked,
All are lovely to see,
In their dainty lace bonnets,
And ribbon bows three.
They came, those dear ladies,
All eager to see,
New babies at Hester's house—
What could they be?
So pert and adorable,
And tilted in bowls,
Three sweet baby violets,
All set in a row.
One a sport, three times tried,
With its leaves green and white,
And pale pink dainty blossoms
A beautiful sight.
Another had heart leaves,
Each bearing a crest,
With single dark blossoms,
Of blue at its best.
The third was a double,
Red leaved, it is true,
And hiding gold nuggets,
'Neath petals dark blue.
From a streamer of ribbon
A small bottle swayed,
Filled with rain water,
For each tiny maid.
The charge it was read,
And the rain water spilt,
On each little plant bottom,
Which was placed at a tilt.
Then wishes were said,
For the babies to grow,
Into blossoming beauties,
To go to a show.

On the night of March the twelfth, some of the members of the Muscle Shoals African Violet Society of Florence, Alabama, were surprised as they answered the phone.

"Can you come over to my house tomorrow night for a christening?" I asked each one.

"What ever are you getting at now, Hester?" most replied. "We know you have no baby around your house, unless it's your grand-daughter."

"No it isn't Betsy; but it's a christening, just the same, so just you be here." And that's all I would tell them.

Eager to see just what I had up my sleeve, several of the members came. As they arrived,

they were greeted by Mrs. Glay Rhodes and Mrs. Earl Stamps, who ushered them, one by one, into the dining room. There they saw on the service bar three beautiful baby violets, looking quite demure with their little white pots tilted in Nile green bowls so their charming rosettes of leaves and dainty blossoms could be seen to the best advantage.

White frills of paper lace doilies were snugly fitted around the tops of the pots and on a streamer from a bow of pink ribbon that was tied on the edge of each pot hung a tiny clear glass bottle of rain water.

Mrs. Stamps, as mistress of ceremonies, introduced the babies.

One, a variegated leaved sport of Blushing Maiden which I had proved three times by taking a leaf from the first sport and growing a plant. When all three plants proved true to form in color and size of blossoms and produced variegated leaves each time, I decided it would come true to form each time. So I had set it aside for naming.

From the cross pollination of Pink Beauty on Blue Girl, many little plants came into being. Some were shared with the violet society members, who were to grow and report on them at the regular meeting of the society.

Of the number I kept, I decided that two of these plants were worthy of registration, which I had applied for. One of them was a plant with a heart-shaped crested girl type leaf, with a dark blue blossom resembling the blossom of Blue Girl.

The other seedling had an ovate leaf that was very dark red with petioles of medium length and having a double blossom that opened wide and had a fine rich velvety texture of dark blue beneath the petals, of which gold nuggets of pollen sacs peeped out. Sometimes as many as five pollen sacs could be seen on one blossom.

Mrs. Stamps read a charge on the care and culture of seedlings, stressing the advantages of fluorescent lights in growing them. Then she broke the bottle of rain water on each baby pot bottom and called its name as I placed stakes bearing the chosen names in the soil beside the pots.

The variegated sport then became no longer a number but a very dignified "Pink Loveliness." The single flowered, crested leaf plant became "Blue Velvet Rosette."

Then, with all good wishes for continued success in producing baby violets for fun on her window sill, the christening was over.

But not the surprises. For each member present was presented a brand new baby plant, secured from rooting the leaves of "Blue Crest."

The "ohs" and "ahs" were audible from the group as they sipped hot punch and nibbled cookies. Each member declared that she would outdo the other in growing her new baby to maturity and would gladly present her in a baby show at some future meeting of the club.

THE END

TELL YOU WHAT . . .

NEW MEMBERSHIPS and RENEWALS — should be sent to the treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati 27, Ohio. Make checks and money orders payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Please do not send them to the editor of the Magazine. **DUES** — \$3.00 for a twelve months period. There are no \$2.00 memberships. The Magazine is included in each membership.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS — send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

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A. A. V. S. TALLEY

Immediately after your African Violet Spring, Summer or Fall SHOW will you kindly send direct to me the names of the varieties winning the following awards:

"BEST IN SHOW"

NATIONAL GOLD Award -- three registered named varieties

NATIONAL PURPLE Award -- three registered named varieties

Your information will enable me to make a 1954 AMERICAN AFRICAN VIOLET SELECTIONS (A.A.V.S.) TALLEY which all National club members will find interesting and informative. Thanks ever so much for your cooperation.

Miss Daisy Jones
1327 Sterick Building
Memphis 3, Tenn.

ANNOUNCING 1956 CONVENTION

Time: April 19, 20, 21, 1956.

Place: With the Twin Cities -- Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1
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CLUB NEWS — send all club news items to the Club News editor, Maxine Wangberg, 1920 West Third Avenue, Perry, Iowa.

DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS — for September issue, June 1st; December issue, September 1st; March issue; December 1st; June issue, March 1st.

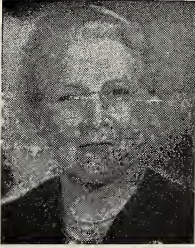
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MEMBERS' HANDBOOK — is mailed out to all members of the Society. Write the editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee if you do not receive your copy.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANKS AND BROCHURES — specify number required when writing editor, Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tennessee.

President's Message



Mrs. Magill

LOOKING FORWARD

At this stage the St. Louis Convention is still a dream of reality, but we can not live in the past. So, you must start NOW to make ready those SPECIMEN African violets for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, come April 14, 15, 16, 1955. However, there are one or two items I am moved to relate. Along with the many awards made by our awards chairman, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, one of which was an Honorary Life Membership to Ferne Kellar, it was my very happy privilege to present, in behalf of the entire membership of the Society, to Alma Wright a Sunglow Bowl for her countless hours, without salary, and her untiring efforts to give us this fine Magazine; to Anna Layson an Honorary Life Membership for securing the fine awards that have increased each year in number and value. This too requires hours and hours of work, writing letters, telephoning and planning to place them for the greatest happiness of all concerned.

The report of the show committee, Ruth Carey, chairman, bears careful study by each one of you. There have been requirements included to continually increase the quality of our shows. Whether you ever desire to judge or not it is wise for you as an exhibitor or committee chairman to know well in advance what is expected of a judge.

In line with that subject: Information has been given me that the standards as set down by our awards committee for the GOLD and PURPLE Ribbons are not being upheld. Therefore, I call to the attention of anyone who is requested to judge shows, in the future, that African violets entered in the class for the Gold and Purple Ribbons given by the African Violet Society of America, Inc., must EACH score 90 points. Neither ribbon can be awarded if one plant in this class falls below a 90 point score.

The motive of these particular awards is to stimulate growing of specimen African violets by more and more members. There is no challenge if judges permit the Gold or Purple Ribbon to be awarded for a RED ribbon score, anything less than 90. Remember, a requirement of a judge is to have courage. Won't you exercise yours?

We are again a member of the American Horticultural Council as our membership has been renewed.

A big THANK you to each one of the Affiliated Chapters who have so generously contributed to the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund. Elsewhere in this issue you will find listed the Chapters who have given gifts. As you help swell the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund so will research reach out and out.

Our membership continues to grow beyond the wildest imagination. Our treasurer, Myrtle Radtke, tells me we have an application from Hong Kong, China. Could it be that our favorite plant might make friendships of international value?

As you read this vacations will be memories for most of you, the children will be back in school and you will no doubt be hard at work reviving your plants from their summer rest. Good, GOOD growing from now to April and the Pittsburgh Show.

For FINER AFRICAN VIOLETS,

Cordially yours,

Ada Magill

"April in



St. Louis"







Plants severely damaged by root-knot nematodes in an experiment described in this article. Four other plants from this experiment are shown in another figure

AFRICAN VIOLET NEMATODE PROBLEMS

M. B. Linford, University of Illinois

Most growers of African violets, and especially the readers of this Magazine, are keenly aware of the root-knot nematode problem and already know a lot about it. Not so many people know, however, that actually there are several different kinds or species of root-knot nematode, and that other very distinct kinds of nematodes attack African violets without causing root knot.

At the University of Illinois where we are investigating nematodes that attack many plants, as different as clover, roses, and apples, we had already begun some studies of nematodes on African violets when, in February, 1953, your Society through its Research Committee began to give financial support to our work. This support has made it possible for us to place increased emphasis upon the African violet problems.

The ultimate objective of this research is to learn how to control nematodes completely, easily, and cheaply; but that goal is not yet in sight. It may not be reached for many years if ever. A similar goal has been sought for a long time in studies of nematodes attacking important crop

plants in many parts of the world; but the best that has yet been achieved, and the best we may have a right to expect, is gradual progress toward the final goal. If there had been any easy panacea, it should have been found a long time ago.

In our present research program we are attempting several things. We need to know what kinds of nematodes attack African violets, how commonly each occurs, and how seriously each can damage the plant. We now know that some occur very commonly while others are rare, and that some cause much more serious disease than others. We need to know why this is so if we are going to control them. Why is it that the most careful grower will have trouble with one kind of nematode getting into his propagation beds when he takes precautions that effectively exclude other kinds? If there are any weak points in the life histories of these nematodes, and if we can find these weak points, we may then be able to attack more successfully. Evidence in this paper will make the need for such information more apparent, because it is clear that some kinds of nematodes are more difficult to control

than others. This is a big undertaking on which we have made only a start.

This article is intended primarily as a report of progress in this research program, but it needs to be more than that: it needs first to give the reader some basic information concerning the nature of nematodes, where they are found, how they live, how they get from pot to pot and from house to house, what conditions enable them to thrive, and how they cause disease in plants. To understand the research, the reader should also know a little about how they are studied. This general information is not original, but it is not readily available elsewhere in non-technical language.

This magazine has carried some excellent articles about nematodes, and at least three of them are well worth reading carefully again. In the June 1950 number, Neil C. Miller and Mary J. Miller assembled a tremendous amount of information concerning nematodes in general, and they presented it in readable style. At that time, however, very little was known about which kinds of nematodes actually attack African violets. Quite properly, the Millers emphasized root-knot which was then and still is the most important type of nematode trouble with this plant. More recent articles which are strictly limited to the root-knot problem are by A. L. Taylor in the December 1953 number, and by A. M. Golden in the March 1954 number. That other types of nematodes can attack African violets has scarcely been mentioned in this Magazine.

THE NATURE AND HABITS OF NEMATODES

The nematodes that cause disease in plants, and the many harmless and even beneficial kinds that occur abundantly in nature, are minute colorless worms, most of them so small that they cannot be seen without a microscope. Much smaller than their round-worm relatives that attack animals and man, most of those we are discussing are between 1/100 and 1/20 inch long. All of them in their younger stages, and most of them throughout their lives, are slender and worm-like in shape and able to move about. The female root-knot nematodes that become plump, pear-shaped to nearly spherical, immobile creatures, are not very typical of nematodes in general.

Active nematodes move with a somewhat snake-like undulating motion, not at all like the crawling of an earthworm; but they can move by their own power only through moist material like soil or sand or over moist surfaces. Just as soon as the surface of a nematode begins to dry off, that nematode begins to shrink and it can no longer move. If it is dried very rapidly, a nematode is killed; but if dried gradually the different kinds of nematodes are affected differently. Some are killed by even the most gradual drying, but other kinds remain alive after they are completely dry, and may remain alive in the dry condition for months or even years. While dry, they are harder to kill with chemicals or heat than when moist and active.

In clear water, few kinds of nematodes can

swim or float. Most kinds settle to the bottom and, without something firm to rub against to give them traction, their motions fail to propel them. When they have firm support, are moist, and have plenty of oxygen, as in a porous potting mixture that is moist but not soggy, they propel themselves very effectively. The nematodes that feed in or on roots are definitely attracted to roots; and once they begin to feed they stay close to the root. They may follow along as a root grows through the soil, but they rarely wander far away.

Many persons are surprised to learn that the great majority of kinds of nematodes are entirely harmless and that some even are beneficial. Nematodes of the harmless sorts are to be found in almost any handful of the most fertile soil, the cleanest sand, the most friable leafmold, or the richest compost. Often they are present in tremendous numbers, feeding upon decaying organic matter or on the microorganisms -- fungi, bacteria and protozoa -- that are fed by the organic matter. Plant-parasitic nematodes often are among them. Also present in the mixture may be predaceous nematodes that kill and feed upon nematodes of the other kinds. All of them are subject to attack by other minute animals and by fungi. Some kinds of fungi have evolved fantastic trapping mechanisms which enable them to capture and hold a nematode while killing it and using it as food. All this microscopic life in the soil engages in a free-for-all battle to the death, in which worm eats worm, worm eats fungus, fungus eats worm, and all may be killed and eaten by still other creatures.

The plant-parasitic nematodes themselves may fall prey to these various antagonists. This helps somewhat to control injurious nematodes, but it does not help enough. No investigator has yet learned how to make these natural enemies work for us sufficiently to achieve a satisfying degree of nematode control.

Although the kinds of nematodes that cause disease in plants are not nearly as numerous as are the harmless sorts, they are of very different habits as we shall see. Also, the most troublesome of them are remarkably well adapted to a parasitic life. They require living plants as food, but most of them can live a long time without food, and most can thrive on the food provided by many different plants. When they have suitable food they can multiply rapidly. As is true also of the harmless kinds, the females lay eggs and, in many species, nearly every nematode becomes a fertile female. Males in many species are very rare if they occur at all. Nematodes differ in how rapidly they can multiply, how seriously they damage the plants which furnish their food, and how well they are fitted to survive adverse conditions. Those that are found most often with African violets are species that are very well adjusted to an easy parasitic life in greenhouses.

HOW NEMATODES ARE SPREAD

The nematodes that concern us live either within the diseased plant or in the soil around its

roots, and most of them are found in both. Obviously, when a rooted plant is moved from place to place it carries its parasites with it. Even if the soil is washed from the roots before a plant is shipped, this will not free it of any of the nematodes we shall discuss, although such washing may reduce the numbers of some kinds. Unfortunately, without a laboratory examination, you cannot be sure of what kinds of nematodes are present except, of course, that the characteristic galls on roots indicate root-knot. Because of these facts, many plants infested with nematodes have been bought and sold or, innocently, given to one's best friends.

Any soil from around the roots of an infested plant will contain nematodes, and if even a speck of such soil, clinging to hands or trowels or spilled on the potting bench, gets into another pot, it may start trouble. One might expect that leaves taken from infected plants would propagate healthy plants, and often they will; but, as Mr. Golden has shown, some of those leaves may carry root-knot nematodes into the propagating bed. Foliar nematodes are found chiefly within leaves.

Water that drains out of a nematode-infested pot is almost as likely to contain live nematodes as is a little of the soil itself; and one infested pot stood among many clean ones in a bench, tray or pan of sand or gravel may contaminate all of its neighbors. Reasoning from the known characteristics of nematodes, it seems likely that entry into neighboring pots might be more rapid from a bed of sand than of "pea" gravel. One small experiment gave us results that bear this out, but additional tests are required to determine whether the difference is big enough to be of practical importance.

RECOGNITION AND INVESTIGATION OF NEMATODES

With the exception of root-knot, which one can learn to recognize with fair certainty from the appearance of the galls, the diseases caused by nematodes can be diagnosed only by demonstrating the presence of the nematodes that cause them. Unfortunately, this requires laboratory methods and the use of a good microscope. Even with a microscope, these nematodes cannot be seen in the soil; they have to be removed to clear water before they can be observed. There are several methods of doing this. One of the simplest will be mentioned as an example because it is not widely used.

A potted plant that is to be checked for nematodes is stood in a glass dish and water is poured onto the surface of the soil until a little drains out the bottom hole -- a tablespoonful for a very small pot, and more for larger pots. If nematodes are abundant, as they are likely to be if they are damaging the plant, the water will carry some of them into the dish where they can be seen and identified. Merely finding nematodes in this water is not enough, however, because they may be only harmless sorts: it is necessary to determine what kinds of nematodes are present and also to know what type of damage these

nematodes are capable of. This requires familiarity with nematodes.

There also are methods of determining whether nematodes are inside the plant. If roots are washed free from soil and spread in shallow water in a dish that is covered to prevent drying out, some of the nematodes will gradually work their way out into the water where they can be seen. Pieces of root, leaf or stem can be torn apart in water to release nematodes they may contain.

To see nematodes inside the roots, stems or leaves just where they were before being disturbed, clean pieces of the plant containing them are dropped into hot solutions of chemicals that kill them immediately. The solutions used for this also stain the nematodes red or blue and, at the same time, make the plant tissue somewhat transparent. It is then possible, with a microscope, to see the nematodes and even take pictures -- photomicrographs -- of them. Some of the pictures with this article, like some of Mr. Golden's, were taken in this way.

If nematodes found in a plant or around its roots are of a kind that has not been studied enough to determine how much damage and what kind of damage it may cause, there is only one way to obtain this information. That is by experimentation. Assume that an unhealthy plant has come into the laboratory. In the roots and soil there are numerous nematodes, practically all of one kind, and we want to determine whether they may have caused the unhealthy condition or whether they were only innocent bystanders. We need eight or ten healthy young plants of one variety, as much alike as possible in size and vigor, all propagated and grown with extreme precautions to keep away from nematodes. To half of these plants we add nematodes. The other half we leave without nematodes to serve as "checks" or standards of comparison, to show how well these plants will grow without the nematodes. Before adding the nematodes, however, we want to separate them as well as possible from fungi or anything else that might cause disease. There are several ways of doing this, none of them perfect, but we do our best. Then with the nematodes alone suspended in clean water, we add equal numbers to each pot of the infested series, recording the approximate numbers actually added.

The infested pots and the nematode-free checks are then stood on the same bench or table where they receive uniform watering, feeding, light and temperature. To keep nematodes from spreading from one pot to another we must keep the pots well separated, and we stand them on a table top consisting of a rigid metal grid. We prefer sheets of the material known in the steel trade as "nine-gauge, three-fourths inch, flattened expanded metal". With pots supported this way, any water that overflows or drains from a pot, or any that is splashed in watering drops to the floor where it cannot carry nematodes to another pot. During growth the experimental plants are watched for symptoms of disease. If,

after a period of weeks or many months, plants infested with the nematodes appear unhealthy in comparison with the checks, then we must determine whether the kind of nematode we put in has lived and multiplied, and whether the disease looks the same as in the plant we started with. If so, then we have evidence that this nematode is really pathogenic -- capable of causing disease -- and from these plants we can describe the disease it causes.

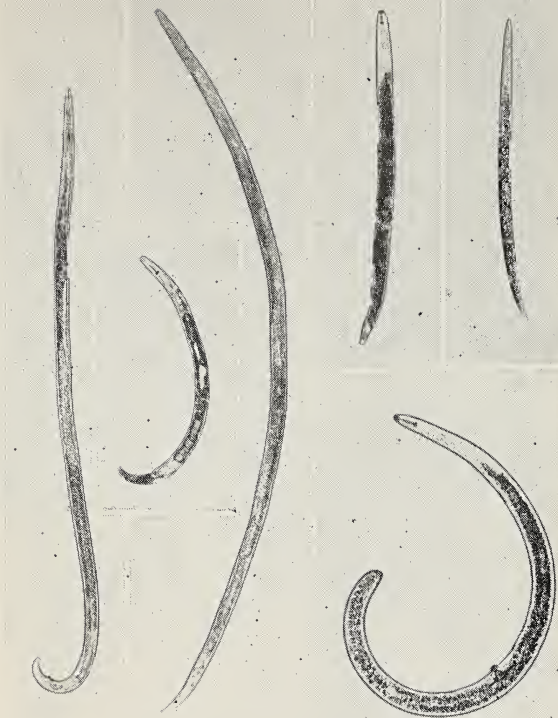
This sort of experiment takes time. Much more time and work are required if, as often is true, the nematodes we want to test are mixed with other kinds when first found. If they are, then it is necessary to sort out the one kind only. This sorting is such slow work that usually, after selecting relatively few, we add them to one nematode-free plant and allow them to multiply until we have enough of the one kind for the experiment. Naturally there are many variations of this simple procedure, but this is enough to give some idea of how we study nematodes and determine their effects on plants.

SOME KINDS OF NEMATODES THAT ATTACK AFRICAN VIOLETS

In an early number of this Magazine a contributor who had been misinformed passed along the opinion that there is only one kind of nematode that attacks plants and that it causes root knot. The truth is that specialists have known of many kinds of plant-parasitic nematodes for fifty years and longer, but the specialists have not been very successful in disseminating such information. From our present research we now know nematodes of five distinct genera that feed in or on the African violet plant. They differ in size, shape, structure, and life history, and they attack the plant in different ways with different results. Differences between them are so great that zoologists place them in four distinct families. By comparison, the plant genera *Achimenes*, *Episcia*, *Gloxinia*, *Saintpaulia* and *Streptocarpus* are all members of one family. This report is not going to be loaded down with Latin names, but a few will be used as means of specifying clearly just what nematodes are meant, and also to emphasize the fact that very different nematodes are being considered.

Plants examined in this study have come chiefly from only a few states, from Ohio to Kansas, with none from the far South or East and only one plant from California. Geographically, this does not represent adequate sampling; and not enough plants have been examined from any region to insure finding all the kinds of nematodes that may be causing trouble. It is to be expected that additional study will detect still others.

FOLIAR NEMATODES must not be very common on African violets in the region from which most of our plants have come, because no plant infested with them has been sent to us for examination. As early as 1938, however, two species of *Aphelenchoides*, the genus in which these foliar nematodes belong, were reported



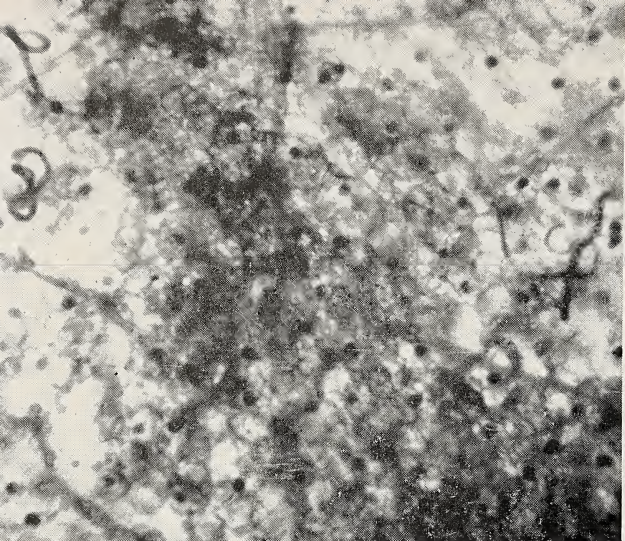
Five kinds of nematodes that attack African violets, magnified equally. The largest was only 1/25 inch long. Two long nematodes at the left are male and female foliar nematodes; between them is a female pin nematode; at the top right center is a female root-lesion nematode; top right, larval stage of a root-knot nematode; and bottom right, a female spiral nematode.

from both *Saintpaulia* and *Gloxinia* in Europe. One of the same species was reported in 1952 from *Saintpaulia* and *Gloxinia* in a technical zoological article from California that did not describe effects on the plants. This article also reported that another species, taken from buds of *Vanda* orchids from Hawaii, developed in leaves of *Saintpaulia*.

The foliar nematode reported from Europe and California occurs in Illinois and elsewhere on garden chrysanthemums. When we collected some from chrysanthemum leaves and placed them onto African violet plants under conditions favorable for the nematodes, they entered the leaves and produced the disease that is described here.

After a few nematodes go into a leaf it takes many days for the first symptoms to appear. Small, sunken, water-soaked or brownish spots are first seen on the back of the leaf. They gradually enlarge, become darker, and show through on the upper side. Other spots appear and develop similarly on the same leaf and even on leaves at the opposite side of the plant. The nematodes may be found in all of them. Severely affected leaves finally die with what appears to be a rot. In our experimental plants the stem and very young leaves have not been affected in this way.

This type of disease results from activities of the nematodes inside the leaf where they feed



Foliar nematode disease of African violet caused by nematodes transferred experimentally from chrysanthemum leaves.

Foliar nematodes in diseased African violet leaf, showing as irregularly curved black lines in light areas at left of center and at lower right. The large unevenly darkened area was a brown spot damaged by the nematodes before the leaf was prepared for this photomicrograph.

and multiply as they move about through spaces between the leaf cells. Gradually, as some of the cells die and the nematodes become more numerous, they spread into other parts of the leaf. To move to other leaves, however, some of the nematodes must come out onto the leaf surface. Apparently they can do this only when the surface is wet, as from dew or sprinkling. In our experiments this foliar nematode has thrived only when the plants have been kept in a very humid atmosphere and when the plant surface has been actually wet part of the time. When plants have been kept dry for a time, even after many leaves were infected, new leaves have grown out free from infection. Some of these leaves have been deformed, however, apparently as a result of nematodes feeding on their surface while they were forming, down in the central bud at the tip of the stem.

that their leaves do not touch, to ventilate in such a way as to keep humidity low, and to avoid wetting the leaves in watering. Propagation should be only from carefully selected leaves from healthy plants that have not stood close to infected plants.

This kind of nematode is very active in water, whipping its body so vigorously that it actually swims. Apparently it is this activity that allows it to move rapidly over the wet surface of a plant. This is something the root parasites cannot do. This foliar nematode also is very tolerant of drying. To have a supply available for study during the winter, we collect infected chrysanthemum leaves in the fall, dry them, and store them dry. When such leaves are soaked in water, the nematodes revive and move out, ready to infect a living leaf. From this it is clear that keeping the surface of an African violet plant dry will not kill nematodes within the leaves, but it does confine them to leaves they are already in. As these leaves die and are removed, the plant recovers.

PIN NEMATODES, members of the genus *Paratylenchus*, feed on roots chiefly from the outside, without burrowing into them. Because of this habit they are classed among the ectoparasites, in contrast with the endoparasites that burrow into the plant. They obtain their food by sucking it through a slender hollow spear that they insert into root hairs and other cells on the root surface. Feeding in this way they neither kill roots nor cause swellings or other distinctive symptoms. It is only by finding the nematodes themselves that one learns they are present.

There has been no need for us to try to control this foliar nematode because, in our greenhouse, we have had difficulty keeping humidity high enough for it to thrive. If trouble should be experienced with it, however, some suitable precautions would be to destroy all infected plants, to space the remaining plants so

Pin nematodes have been reported from fields and gardens in various parts of the world, but they do not seem to have been reported from African violets before this study. We find them to be widespread and abundant. Often they have been the only kind of plant-parasitic nematode we could find when examining unhealthy plants; but also we have found them to be abundant around the roots of vigorous young plants that appeared entirely healthy. From a two and one-fourth inch pot we removed eighteen thousand of them, yet we could find no evidence that they had injured the plant. We do not know how many species we have seen because it is extremely difficult to distinguish species of this genus without males, and we have found only females and young individuals.

First experiments to determine how these nematodes affect the plant gave inconclusive results, and other experiments are still in progress. It is now evident, however, that the pin nematodes are not nearly as injurious to African violets as are some other kinds, but they probably

are not entirely harmless. Experiments in Connecticut have shown that one species of pin nematode causes stunting and yellowing of celery, hence we should assume that they are at least mildly injurious to African violets, and learn how to control them.

Control may not be easy, for if it were, these pin nematodes ought not to be as widespread as we find them. In some way they get into propagating beds and flats more easily than do root-knot nematodes. We have found them well established when young plants were first ready to pot up, even when precautions against contamination have excluded other kinds of nematodes. How this happens we do not know. We have found one developmental stage of this nematode -- nearly full grown but still immature -- that tolerates a degree of drying which kills the other stages and eliminates nematodes of some other kinds. Whether this stage can be scattered alive in wind-blown dust, or whether it may in some way cling to leaves that are taken for propagation must be determined, because if this nematode is to be controlled we must learn how to keep it out of propagating beds.

SPIRAL NEMATODES, as the name is used here, are members of the genus *Rotylenchus*. These are somewhat larger than pin nematodes, and, like them, are wormlike in form throughout life. When inactive or when killed in certain ways, many of them assume a somewhat coiled posture, suggesting the common name.

We have seen two or more species of this group while examining African violets, but have not yet studied any of them in detail. From studies of related nematodes on other plants, however, it is likely that these feed partly on the root surface and partly inside. Some nematodes of this type burrow into a root only part of the body length, then, after a time, move back into the soil and penetrate in another place. As soon as they are disturbed, as by washing roots to get them ready for laboratory examination, most of these nematodes come out and drop off. Consequently they are found chiefly in the soil removed from the roots rather than within the roots.

Spiral nematodes occur so widely in field and garden soils that it is not surprising to find at least a few of them, in mixture with other kinds, in pots of African violets grown in non-sterile soil. In addition, however, we have sometimes found almost pure populations of one species of spiral nematode in a pot, occurring in moderate to very great numbers. This demonstrates that they can thrive in African violets. Nematodes from some such pots are being propagated in the greenhouse for possible future study. We have not, however, seen any conspicuous root injury or poor top growth associated with these nematodes, despite the fact that every nematode that penetrates into a root to feed must leave a trail of dead, broken cells.

During July, 1951, we were given an African violet plant heavily infested with one of these

spiral nematodes and essentially free from other kinds. We were not then prepared to work with African violet nematodes, lacking suitable greenhouse facilities where other plants would not be exposed to contamination, but we set up a small test with only three plants which then were grown in a home window. One young nematode-free Norseman variety was left as a check, and two similar plants were infested with approximately six hundred spiral nematodes each. At no time was there any indication that these nematodes had reduced plant growth. One of the infested plants, shifted to a new four inch pot with partial replacement of soil a year ago, now has a leaf spread of fifteen inches and bears forty blossoms despite only mediocre care. Apparently this particular species of spiral nematode is not very injurious.

ROOT-LESION NEMATODES, also called **MEADOW NEMATODES** because the first specimens were described from soil in a meadow, are members of the very important genus *Pratylenchus*, not to be confused with *Paratylenchus*, the pin nematodes. Nearly a dozen species of this group occur around the world and cause important root disease in a wide variety of economic plants ranging from ornamentals through field crops to orchard fruits. They are to be expected, therefore, where African violets are grown in non-sterile soil, and are often found under such conditions in mixture with other nematodes. The

Root-lesion or meadow nematodes in African violet rootlets, killing root tissue and causing it to turn dark. Among the several nematodes visible, two near the middle of the left rootlet are easiest to recognize.



first report of one of these nematodes on African violet came from the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station in 1948.

Root-lesion nematodes characteristically are endoparasites that enter the root and move about as they feed, killing cells as they go and causing dead spots or lesions or killing entire rootlets. This may stimulate the development of an increased number of branch roots which, in turn, may be killed by the nematodes. No galls or other swellings develop, and the dead roots look as if they had rotted. For this condition in tobacco, the name "nematode root rot" has been used.

The report from Maryland and our own observations of some very heavily parasitized plants lead us to think that some of the root-lesion nematodes are capable of damaging African violets severely. The fact that only a few such plants have been seen, however, suggests that these nematodes are not readily able to by-pass the usual control measures. We are maintaining some of these nematodes for future study but have not yet made tests to determine how seriously they can damage African violets.

ROOT-KNOT NEMATODES are in a class by themselves as the most severely destructive nematodes known to attack African violets. First observed on greenhouse cucumbers in England nearly a century ago, they are now known to be world-wide in warm climates, causing serious disease in a great many species of economic plants. In cooler climates they are less commonly troublesome out-of-doors, but they thrive in the protection of greenhouses. Until 1949 all of them were thought to be one species, generally known as *Heterodera marioni*. It was then demonstrated that there are several distinct species and varieties which now are classified in the genus *Meloidogyne*. Three of them have been reported on African violet. Austin Ford (this Magazine, March, 1953) worked with *Meloidogyne hapla* and *M. incognita* var. *acrita*, but did not describe the disease either of them causes. A. M. Golden, in a technical statement, indicated that he had worked with *M. arenaria*. It will be no surprise if we learn later that other species too can attack this plant.

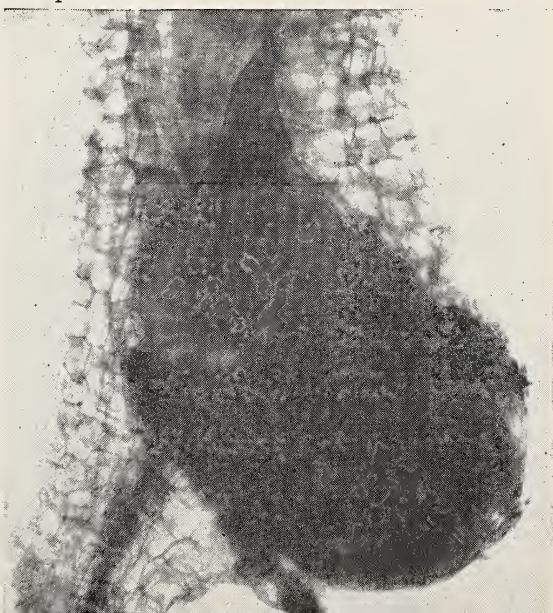
The life history, which seems to be the same in all species, has been described several times in this Magazine, but some points need repetition and emphasis. The excellent illustrations in Mr. Golden's recent article should be studied in this connection. The slender, active larval stage moves through the soil until it finds a growing root tip or other very young or freshly wounded plant part that is attractive to it. There it burrows in and continues to move until it finds a group of cells suitable for its permanent feeding site. It then stops wandering, feeds voraciously without killing plant cells, grows enormously in width, and matures as a fertile female or, rarely, as a male. The females become large enough that they sometimes can be seen and recognized without a microscope, and their eggs accumulate in rounded masses bigger than the females. These eggs may be enclosed within the plant or, very commonly, they protrude into the soil. With suitable moisture, warmth, and oxygen, eggs begin to hatch within a few days, and the young larvae are then ready to start a new generation.

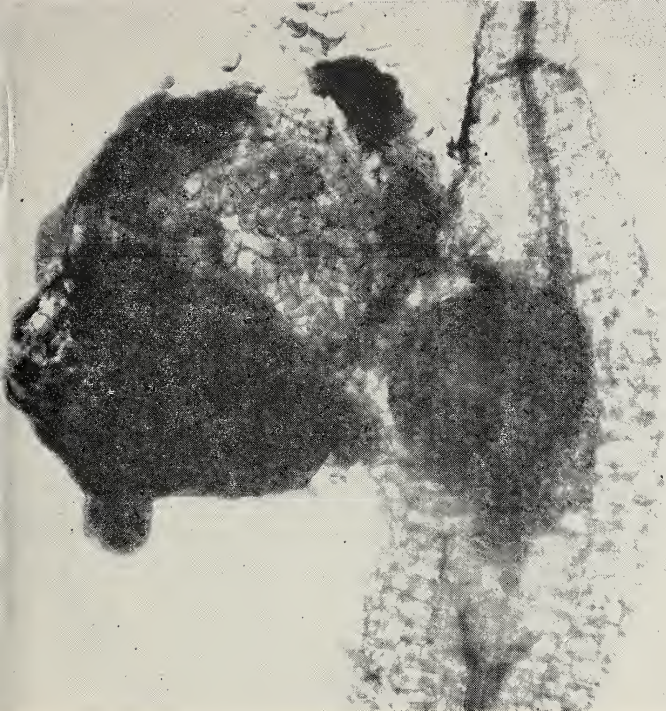
Other kinds of nematodes that we have discussed are all able to move about as they feed. If they kill some cells, they move to others. Enlarging root-knot nematodes cannot do this, but it does not handicap them. Instead of killing cells, these nematodes stimulate the plant cells to an abnormal development. Many cells all around the nematode enlarge enough to cause the characteristic gall or knot, but a few cells near the head of the nematode are changed more greatly. These cells would normally form part of the vascular system -- the transporting pipeline -- through which water and minerals move from the roots to the leaves while sugars and other foods move down to nourish the roots. Under the influence of the nematode, however, these cells lose that function and, instead, take a supply of food to the nematode. This causes the root beyond the nematode to slow down, stop growing, or die; and it may stimulate the older living parts to produce an abnormal number of branches which, in turn, may be stopped or killed by more nematodes.

Although root-knot nematodes attack chiefly roots, some of them also develop freely in stem structures that they can enter from the soil, such as potato tubers. They may also be found in the stems, cotyledons and leaves of seedling beans, tomatoes, and other plants that have germinated in heavily infested soil. When given a little assistance, as in experiments we reported from Hawaii in 1941, one species was able to thrive far above the soil in leaves and stems of various plants.

It was no surprise, therefore, to learn that your Editor, in a note in this Magazine in 1948,

An adult female root-knot nematode in an African violet root gall; greatly enlarged. The nematode head, at the tip of the tapered neck region, lies among root cells that have been altered so that they serve the nematode, not the root. The large rounded black mass consists of hundreds of eggs laid by this nematode.





Another root-knot nematode gall, with the egg mass broken open, exposing some of the eggs. Observe that the dark-stained core of the root, the "vascular tissue," is interrupted around the head of the nematode at the left of its rounded body.

had reported root-knot in stems as well as roots of African violets. In the June 1950 number, Mr. and Mrs. Miller pointed out that stem and crown infections were even more disastrous than infections of the roots; and that young leaves were sometimes attacked, forming visible knots. Still other writers have mentioned infection of crowns and petioles; and Mr. Golden recently has emphasized the seriousness of petiole and leaf infection as a means of introducing root-knot nematodes into the propagation bed.

Diagnosing root-knot is something the grower can do for himself if he will take the trouble to learn what the characteristic galls look like. On African violet roots no other kinds of gall-like swellings are known that could readily be confused with root knot. On leaves and petioles, however, swellings of undetermined cause sometimes develop in the absence of nematodes.

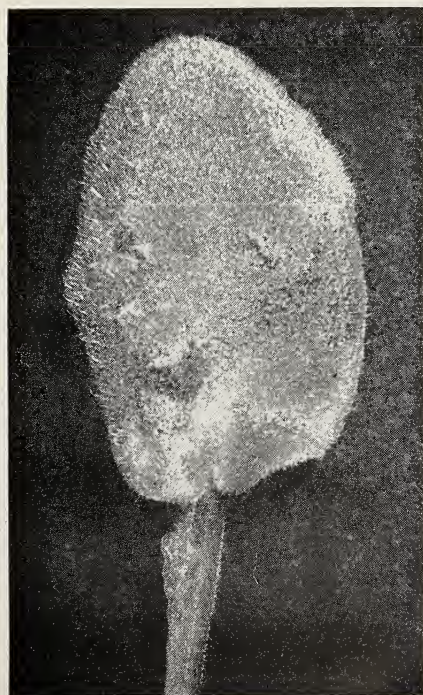
By means of an "indicator plant" method long used by nematode specialists, it is possible for the grower to test soil samples for root knot in about a month's time. The idea is to grow some kind of plant that will form galls when attacked by any species of root-knot nematode, and that will not have other kinds of swellings on its roots to cause confusion. Cucumbers have been used, but they are somewhat resistant to one of the species that attacks African violets. Garden beans can be used if you are sure you can distinguish between nematode galls and the beneficial bacterial nodules. Tomato is a good indicator. Plant the seed in a pot of sterile sand or vermiculite, then transplant into the soil to be tested. After about four weeks wash the soil off the roots --

Severe root-knot in a young sucker plant, with roots, stem, petioles and leaf blades infected. The galled leaf shown in another figure was from this plant. This was one of the southern or greenhouse root-knot nematodes. The northern species, *MELOIDOGYNE HAPLA*, has not developed in leaves in our tests.

do not shake it off lest you lose roots -- and look for galls.

Spread the washed roots in shallow water. You need good light and a background of suitable color. For old, dark roots, use a white enamel pan or a clear glass dish over a white background; for young white roots, stand the glass

Root-knot nematode galls in leaf blade and petiole from a plant with several leaves affected similarly. Female nematodes had matured and laid eggs in these leaves.





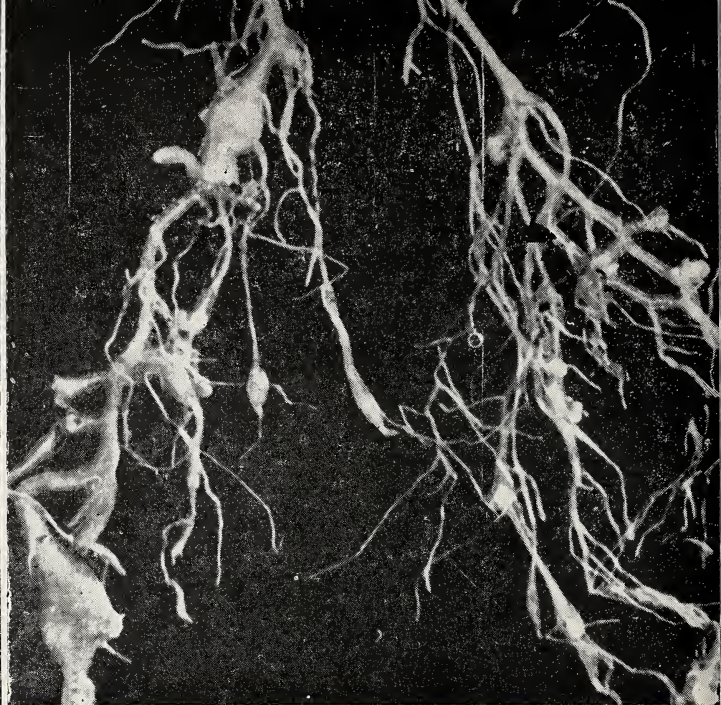
Root-knot nematode galls on tomato grown as an "indicator plant." This picture, nearly twice natural size, was taken three weeks after transplanting a young seedling into heavily infested potting mixture. Four weeks is a better growth period, allowing galls to grow larger for easier recognition.

dish on something black, or use a pan that has been painted inside with black enamel.

To test a valuable African violet plant for root knot without removing it from the pot or digging out some roots, use a combination of the indicator-plant method and the method of leaching nematodes from a pot described earlier in this paper. The plant should have been watered amply a day before the test is started. Stand the suspected plant on top of a pot of sterilized potting soil, then pour water around the plant until enough has drained out through the bottom to soak thoroughly the pot of sterilized soil under it. If your plant has root knot, this water should carry enough nematodes into the lower pot for an indicator plant to detect them.

EFFECTS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES OF ROOT-KNOT NEMATODES

As we examined plants brought to this laboratory for diagnosis, we found the destructive root knot disease described by others on African violets, including infection and disintegration of the stem. Sometimes there were almost no roots alive in the soil, yet all stages of the nematode were abundant inside the stem and even in the petioles. Sometimes, however, we found a very different condition: plants that appeared to be



African violet roots infected with a greenhouse or southern species of root-knot nematode that causes galling with little abnormal branching.

fairly healthy had heavily galled roots but no nematodes in the stems. Microscopic study of the nematodes suggested that such contrasts might result from very different effects of different species of nematodes.

Meloidogyne hapla which we shall call the northern root-knot nematode, is known to differ from the other species in two important respects: it lives over winter in colder climates than the others do, and it causes a somewhat different type of galling and more root branching on various plants. In central Illinois and regions of similar and cooler climates, this is the only kind of root knot we have found in fields and gardens remote from greenhouses or from plants set out from dwellings or greenhouses. Other species, adapted to warmer climates, occur in this northern area in greenhouses and in pot plants in dwellings. For convenience in this report they are called greenhouse nematodes.

In an important experiment we compared the northern species with one of the warm-climate, greenhouse nematodes. The northern *M. hapla* came from a pasture near Urbana, Illinois; the greenhouse root knot, *M. incognita* came from a commercially propagated African violet. Nematodes of both species were reared through several generations in tomato, and larvae for this experiment were hatched from eggs on the tomato roots. Approximately one thousand larvae of the northern species were added to each of five freshly potted, nematode-free plants of Blue Eyes; equal numbers of the greenhouse species were added to five similar plants; and five others were kept without nematodes as checks. Although one thousand may seem like a lot of nematodes, that many could be the progeny of two well-fed females.

After three and one-half months, plants infested with the northern root knot were indistinguishable from the checks, but those with the greenhouse root knot were beginning to look weak: leaves were slightly pale, dull, and droopy, and new leaves were not growing as they should. Shortly thereafter, plants with the northern root knot began to lag slightly behind the checks in growth and to develop a paler color in the older leaves. Even after a full year, however, two of these plants that had not been destroyed by examination, were still growing and blossoming. They were not as vigorous as the checks, their leaves were paler and more turned down, and their flowers were fewer, smaller, and paler, yet there was nothing about their aspect to indicate serious root disease.

With the greenhouse root knot, however, the course of disease was rapid and severe. Growth stopped, the leaves became dull yellow-green and soft, and their edges turned down. These plants became loose in the soil from loss of roots. When the first plant died, its stem was far disintegrated. Nematodes were abundant in stems of the others. Examination of those plants then demonstrated that this was the type of root knot disease that had been sent to us by dismayed growers, the type that has troubled growers in various parts of the country for years.

We have since tested the northern *M. hapla* from other sources, including some from peony and some from African violets. They have caused only the mild disease. The severe root knot, in our experience, has all been caused by other species. How many species can do it we are not yet ready to say.

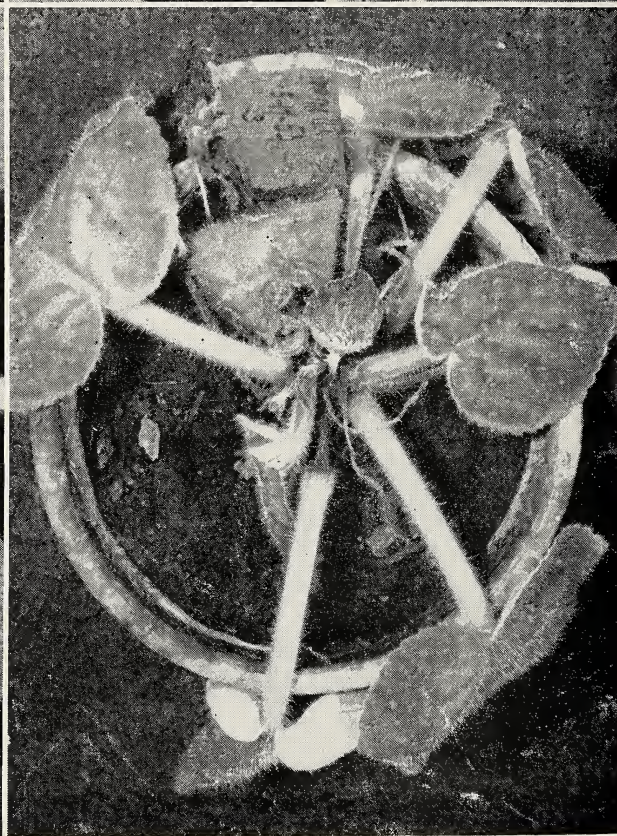
Examination of experimental plants has brought out a very important point: the northern *M. hapla* has thrived only in roots, and not in stems, petioles, or leaf blades. In roots it has stimulated an abnormal amount of branching with little killing. This sometimes results in a greater bulk of roots, but less efficient roots, than in nematode-free checks.



Galls and excessive branching caused by the northern root-knot nematode in an African violet root. Some of the nematodes appear as small black spots and streaks in the galls because this root had been prepared for microscopic examination.

Representative plants from an experiment, showing severe root knot, at left, caused by a southern or greenhouse nematode, and mild root knot at right, caused by the northern root-knot nematode. These plants had been infested six months earlier with one thousand larvae each. Between them is a nematode-free check.





Representative plants from an experiment comparing two species of root-knot nematodes, photographed six months after adding one thousand larvae per pot. **UPPER LEFT**, nematode-free check; **UPPER RIGHT**, northern root knot; **BELOW**, the best and poorest of five plants infested with a greenhouse or southern species. Two more of these five are shown in the first figure in this article.



Very heavy infestation with the northern root-knot nematode retards growth, reduces blossoming, and causes paler flowers and leaves without killing the plant. At left is a healthy check; at right, a plant infested six months earlier with many thousand larvae poured into the center of the plant. A plant similarly infested with a greenhouse root-knot nematode died in seven weeks.

The other root-knot nematodes, however, have caused little branching of roots. Instead, they kill roots rapidly. They also develop freely within the stem, and this development more than root destruction appears to be what kills the plants. Inside the stem, as in the roots, these nematodes cause changes in structure that prevent normal functioning of the tissues. When females mature inside the stem and produce eggs which hatch there, the larvae are released into the stem instead of into soil. Each of them seeks the youngest tissue available, where the stem is making new growth; and as these larvae feed they further disrupt the tissues until the stem can no longer function. The plant dies.

Some of these greenhouse nematodes can develop in the stem tip and leaves even before roots are damaged. When we began the experiment with one thousand larvae per pot, we had many thousands of larvae of each kind left over. These we poured into the centers of young Blue Eyes plants. The northern root-knot nematode made the plant pale and reduced its growth, but the greenhouse nematode produced drastic results. Within a month the center of this plant had become a continuous dome-shaped swelling with a roughened surface where young deformed leaves were breaking away. In seven weeks this plant was dead.

When we added smaller numbers of such nematodes, in a little water, to the centers of the plants, nematodes entered the young leaves, produced galls, developed to maturity, and laid eggs inside the leaf. Also, we have placed leaves into covered glass dishes of sand, and added nematode larvae either at once or after roots formed. The greenhouse nematodes entered the leaves and re-

produced, but in our few tests the northern root knot nematode has not done so.

We now see that there are two distinct root-knot problems, at least in the cooler climates. One is a mild disease caused by nematodes that may readily be picked up by the grower who uses non-sterile soil in his potting mixture. How commonly this northern root-knot nematode occurs in private collections, diminishing growth vigor and attractiveness of the plants without killing them, we do not know because a grower who has not noticed the abnormal roots could readily attribute the poor growth to inferior culture. Our studies indicate, however, that this is not the kind of root knot that causes amateurs and commercial growers alike to appeal for help.

The severe root knot that kills African violets in regions where the nematode does not survive out-of-doors can obviously be traced back to infection in a greenhouse. This brings us to the problem stressed by Mr. Golden, of nematodes that can infect leaves and, in that way, be introduced unnoticed into propagation beds. Control of this severe root knot may well hinge, accordingly, upon a better understanding of the conditions that allow leaf infection to occur and upon methods of preventing it.

NEMATODE CONTROL

Control problems have been discussed so well by Taylor and by Golden in the December 1953 and March 1954 numbers of this Magazine that very little need be said here. Anyone who has read to this point will understand the basic need for some standard recommendations:



The northern root-knot nematode causes excessive branching that may result in a more bulky but less efficient root system. At left is a healthy check; at right, a plant infested ten months earlier with one thousand larvae. Many leaves were removed before taking the pictures.

For propagation, select only healthy-appearing leaves from healthy plants, cut away as much of the petiole as your method of handling allows, and do not permit these leaves to come in contact with anything that may be contaminated before they go into the propagation bed.

If you must propagate from nematode-infested plants, select leaves that stand high, and keep them in "quarantine", away from other leaves, until you can be sure they are producing healthy plants.

Propagate in new vermiculite or in sterilized sand or special mixture, in sterilized containers or benches.

Pot up in a sterilized potting mixture in sterilized pots, taking the greatest care to keep your potting bench or other work space free from contaminated material. Clean up between batches. For small-scale operations, work on newspapers that can be discarded. A potting bench covered with galvanized iron is easier to clean than one of boards.

When you divide plants or shift to larger pots, use special care lest nematodes from one pot be spread through many.

If you have a healthy collection, regard with suspicion any new plants from whatever source. Keep them isolated until convinced they are healthy or, if infected, until you muster courage to discard them. Then do not dump them in your garden or compost pile.

Always remember that any soil from an infested pot, and any water that drains or splashes from such a pot, may carry nematodes with it.

Methods of sterilizing soil are being discussed by Neil C. Miller and need not be repeated here. For trowels, pots, pans, flats and benches there is nothing better than heat. Mr. Taylor has told how to make use of thorough drying of benches, etc., in control of root knot, but this will not serve with some other types of nematodes.

What we would like to have is some nematocide -- nematode-killing chemical -- that could be applied to soil around a growing plant to kill all nematodes in the soil and in the plant, and do this without harm to the plant or danger to the user. At present this is only a dream, but a dream that agricultural chemical companies and agriculturists around the world would like to make come true. Important as nematode problems are to African violet growers, they are vastly more important to producers of many of the world's crops; and the person or company that develops this dream nematocide will be rewarded abundantly. In our present research we can test only an occasional new product, and we now have nothing to report.

The following suggestions are directed toward the large propagator because nematodes will always be a problem until wholesale propagators and the originators of new varieties can learn how to avoid producing and shipping infested plants. These suggestions, to supplement those given recently by Taylor, are based upon what we know about these minute worms, pieced out by the best guesses we can make.

Violet breeders especially might consider the feasibility of growing their new stock on metal grid table tops instead of beds of sand or other media that allow nematodes to spread from pot to pot. Supporting pots on "nine gauge, three-



Mrs. Hansen introduces Dr. Linford

fourths inch flattened expanded metal" makes watering more critical and may require larger pots for plants of a given size, but it greatly reduces chances of contamination. If this extreme precaution is taken, there should also be special facilities for safe storage of sterilized trowels, pots, potting mixture and whatever else is needed, separate from the general supply for the range, and there should be a sanitary potting bench where only the cleanest plants are handled.

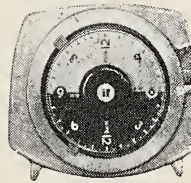
Regardless of what precautions are taken in growing the crop for sale, nematode troubles cannot be avoided if leaves for propagation carry live nematodes either on the surface or inside. The feasibility of maintaining special stock plants for propagation therefore merits consideration. Plants from which leaves are taken should be watered in a way that keeps the foliage dry, avoiding direct wetting and, especially, avoiding splash of water that may carry nematodes from the soil. Leaves from large plants should be safer than from small ones, especially leaves from plants with stems that stand above the pot rim where the plant center can never be flooded with dirty water. Leaves that hang low or that rest on the pot rim should never be used. If special stock plants were maintained no leaves would need be allowed to sag so low.

Without our dream nematocide of the future, there is no simple solution of nematode problems. Meticulous attention is required at every step, from breeding the new variety to caring for it in the home collection, if nematodes are to be prevented from depleting plant vigor and stunting or even killing the plant. Better understanding of the nature of the problems is making possible more effective procedures for avoiding trouble; but regardless of what facts are known, nematode control will never be achieved without the best efforts of growers at every step along the way. If this report helps to stimulate and guide such efforts, it will have served its purpose.

THE END

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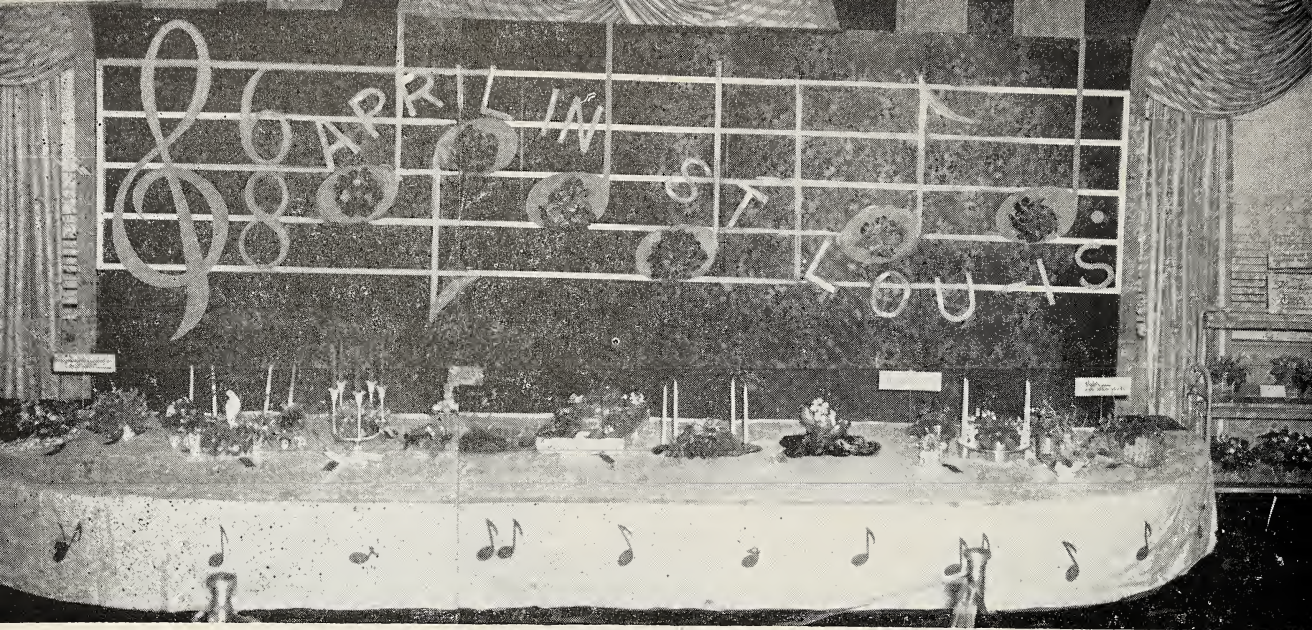
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"April in St. Louis" was the theme of the Amateur Show held in the Regency Room of the Chase Hotel April 21-24 with Mrs. W. F. Moch as show chairman. She and her many committees did a marvelous job carrying out their theme. The first thing that greeted the eye upon entering the room was this lovely picture of the theme of the Show on the opposite wall. The black-background had placed upon it the bars of music "April in St. Louis" you see in picture above, each violet colored musical note being filled with one of Mrs. Moch's lovely African violet plants. The theme of the show was further carried out in the violet colored musical notes placed on the lower edge of the white cloth which covered the three tiered long table in the center of the room upon which were placed hundreds of gorgeous blooming violet plants of every color and almost every variety. The African Violet Council of Greater St. Louis had designed and had made wire holders for the plants which were approximately five inches tall and which held the plants tilted at the proper angle for viewing the entire top of each plant including even the ones on the very top tier of the long table.

The arrangements were placed on a platform under the theme, some of which were very lovely. Mrs. J. R. Bush won a blue ribbon on a very large arrangement using figurines for the focal point, around which were banked lovely violets of various colors. Mrs. Minerva Scheid won second in this class.

An arrangement using the theme "April in St. Louis" which looked very much like a miniature village containing six violet plants, won first place for Mrs. J. Ruffling. Mrs. David Skilling won second using a candelabra with five purple candles in the center of which nestled a lovely purple violet. Mrs. L. M. Farris also won a blue ribbon on her very pretty arrangement in the cut flower class.

The National Society's Silver Cup Award for the best registered plant in the show was won by Mrs. Charles R. Stoehr, Greenwood, Indiana. The plant was a lovely dark foliaged Emperor Wilhelm with a profusion of purple blooms. This plant also won for Mrs. Stoehr, Stimulant Laboratories fifty dollar Cash Award for the best plant in the Show and their twenty-five dollar Cash Award for the best purple violet. I saw Mrs. Stoehr on Wednesday evening shortly after we arrived and she told me should she be lucky enough to win the twenty-five dollar Cash Award on her Boyce Eden plant, Mr. Stoehr would fly down and go back with her. She did not win that award but you guessed it; Mr. Stoehr did fly down and looked almost as happy as Mrs. Stoehr. Do you blame him?

The George C. Cook Award for the second best plant was won by Mrs. L. H. Hotchkiss with a huge plant of Double Delight. When I ran into her shortly after she arrived she was telling me of the tragedy that had befallen them less than five miles from the Chase Hotel. Her plant of Double Delight was too large to go through the car door last year. They hired a truck to carry it this year, but at the last minute Mrs. Hotchkiss decided she did not want to carry the plant -- hubby stated, "The truck was already hired so the plant was going!" This plant was too large to go out basement door (42" in diameter) so Mrs. Hotchkiss took off the three lower rows of leaves in order to get it out of an upstairs door. Mrs. Hotchkiss checked the plant every few miles to see that it had not shifted and every thing was just fine until that fatal curve when the hanging basket fell on it . . . Final story -- hanging basket completely demolished and the lovely huge Double Delight had an entire row of leaves badly bruised -- So sorry, better luck next year.

The National's Gold Ribbon Award for the best collection of three registered named plants was won by Mrs. W. F. Anderson. Incidentally

Mrs. Anderson informed me one of these was a Boyce Eden plant. The Purple Ribbon Award for second best collection of three registered plants was won by Mrs. A. R. Stutko. Only St. Louis members were eligible to compete for these two awards.

The sweepstakes winner was Mrs. E. L. Perdue of Donelson, Tennessee, with eighteen blue ribbons to her credit, winning her Popular Garden's Silver Bowl and the twenty-five dollar Cash Sweepstake Award given by Behnke's Nursery. She also won the Tube Craft Floral Cart Award given for the three best plants in the Show, in the following colors: white, pink, and true purple. Another twenty-five dollar Cash Award given by Tinari Floral Gardens for the best plant of Clementine. Incidentally, Mrs. Perdue's plant of Clementine was not nearly as pretty as it had been. She very nearly left it at home and even after she had carried it to St. Louis she almost didn't enter it. Wouldn't that have been a tragedy? Mrs. Perdue is show chairman for the Davidson County Council of African Violet Clubs of Nashville, Tennessee. Had anyone given an award for first assistants I feel sure Mr. Perdue would have received the grand prize as he helped pack the violets and drove Mrs. Perdue to St. Louis. Mrs. Perdue also won the twenty-five dollar Cash Award I gave for the best plant of Boyce Edens. This plant was named in honor of the late Mr. Edens.

Behnke Nurseries Second Sweepstakes Cash Award of fifteen dollars was won by Mrs. Bush with sixteen blue ribbons to her credit. Their Third Sweepstakes Award of ten dollars was won by Mrs. Stoehr, and Mrs. Hotchkiss. Having the same number of blue ribbons they each received five dollars.

The twenty-five dollar Cash Award given by Stim-U-Plant Laboratories for the best red violet in the Show was won by Mrs. Bush. Their twenty-five dollar Cash Award for the best white

violet in the Show was won by Mrs. George Pendleton with a very large, beautiful plant of Innocence.

The Alma Wright twenty-five dollar Cash Award for the best plant of Alma Wright was won by Mrs. A. R. Stutko.

The twenty-five dollar Cash Award given by Granger Gardens for the best plant of White Madonna was won by Mrs. Bush. Other ribbons won by Mrs. Bush were a blue ribbon and the Purple Award of Merit Ribbon on her small but lovely plant of Black Magic, which really lived up to its name with its dark, almost black, glossy, red-backed foliage, and loads of dark blue double blooms -- making a complete circle on top of the leaves like a lovely nosegay. She also won a blue ribbon and the Purple Ribbon Award of Merit on her beautiful plant of All Aglow with its bronzy, green foliage and a profusion of deep pink blooms.

Mrs. O. D. Dates' lovely Blue Warrior won for her the blue ribbon and also the coveted Purple Ribbon Award of Merit.

Mrs. Perdue also won a blue ribbon and the Purple Ribbon Award of Merit on her own seedling which she named Zulu Queen.

Mrs. J. O. Barker showed the lovely new episcia with the pink in the foliage. This is truly a novelty.

Mrs. O. C. Alleger won a blue ribbon on her beautiful Painted Girl which was a lovely symmetrical plant and the blossoms were marked orchid and white as a true Painted Girl should be.

Mrs. S. E. Shantz won a blue ribbon and the Purple Ribbon Award of Merit on her gorgeous plant of Blue Eyed Beauty. It was a lovely shaped plant with a profusion of blue and white blossoms.

The Silver Bowl given by the First Saint-Paulia Society of Nashville, Tennessee, for the most outstanding seedling was won by Mrs.

Mrs. Moch, Mrs. Magill and Mrs. Carey admire one of the Show entries



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George McIntosh. This was a blush pink with a faint touch of blue in the center of each petal. Another lovely pink seedling was the pink double entered by the Lynden Lyon's. Large fully double medium shade of pink blossoms. They also had a lovely blue and white double which had a profusion of bloom. Bernice McGuffin had a very pretty red bicolor double with wavy, rippling foliage. Mrs. Pendleton also entered a seedling that had huge foliage and a large purple bloom.

Thanks again to the gracious show chairman and her many fine committee chairmen and all who helped with untiring efforts, for a very, very lovely Show. I am sure all of us who attended shall long remember, "April in St. Louis." We shall be anxiously anticipating seeing all of you again next spring in Pittsburgh.

THE END

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Mrs. Pendleton of Kansas City addressing the Convention

The A, B, C's of African Violet Growing

Not only do I wish to speak to you on the A. B. C's of African violet growing, but I would also like to tell you the ways I have found easiest to grow them.

Let us start with a leaf cutting. It may be any leaf on the plant except the very smallest ones in the center or the very oldest ones lying on the rim of the pot. If you use either of those the chances of success are poor, particularly with the leaves around the rim. Their vitality for reproduction has waned and they are liable to collapse in a short time. This is discouraging at the outset to a beginner. Therefore, use only a good leaf.

In removing a leaf from the parent plant, take a firm grip on the stem of the leaf you are wishing to sever from the plant and bend it from one side to the other so that it will snap off very easily, leaving a clean surface on the side of the plant. Now you may cut the stem off at any desired length -- perhaps on a slight slant if you wish. That is only a minor procedure and not at all important. I do not like a severe slant, nor do I like to split the stem end hoping for more plants. These methods give a very thin and weak surface; therefore, husky plants cannot be expected to grow from them. I much prefer two or three fine plants from a leaf than six or eight weaklings. If you wish more plants, put down more leaves.

Cutting the stem to two and one-half inches in length allows the leaf to rise high enough above the vermiculite to avoid shading the young plants when they appear; however, shorter stems produce plants sooner. General procedure is to

allow the stem end to dry off about twenty minutes or so before it is "put down." This has one draw-back. Can you remember to go back and take care of it? I can't, so many times mine are taken care of immediately.

There are two methods of rooting leaves -- one equally as efficient as the other. Although after trying both you may decide one is more satisfactory for you than the other. I find starting them in water (tap) the best for me. I do not bother covering a glass with waxed paper and punching holes in it to hold the stems. I do it the easy way. Simply drop them in the container, always being careful to see that the neck of the bottle or tumbler is small enough to hold up the leaves so that the stems do not touch the bottom. This allows space for root growth.

I always label the bottles with the names of the varieties written on them. Leaves of varying characteristics may be put in the same container for easier identification. The containers, with their leaves, are then placed in a very good light and left to root. I never use dark containers such as brown bottles. That would defeat my purpose. Now I am able to watch the roots form or discard a leaf that shows signs of collapse. If I have several leaves of one variety rooting, I pick out the ones with the best roots and place them in the vermiculite and discard the others. Leaves, when transferred thus from the water to the vermiculite, never wilt or collapse.

It is important that you transfer the rooted cuttings into the vermiculite when the roots are less than an inch long, but, if you have allowed the leaves to stay in the water until small plants have formed, proceed the same as if the little

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plants were not there. The stem must be put
down in the vermiculite an inch to keep it from
toppling over. The little plants will come up in
due time.

If you prefer not to start the leaves in water
first, you simply skip that part and insert the
stem in vermiculite where it will stay, root and
produce small plants. Do not become impatient
when the little plants do not appear as soon as
you think they should, for it may be many months
before a little green leaf shoots up beside the
stem. Leave the little plant there to grow until
it is about one and one-half inches high; then it
should be pulled away from the parent leaf and
planted into another pan of vermiculite to grow
on into a plant twice as large before potting it
into soil. This allows other smaller plants grow-
ing from the same leaf freedom of growth and
they should be left until they too are large
enough to be taken away from the parent leaf.

For putting down leaves I use flat enamel
pans, 10" x 14" and 2" high. In these pans I use
one part vermiculite (Terralite) to three parts
Zonolite (procured from lumber yards) which has
been thoroughly dampened. The coarser material
(Zonolite) seems to induce a heavier root system,
but it is very loose and porous which makes it a
little hard to hold the stems erect, so the one
part vermiculite, which is finer, helps to solve
the problem. You never need to support the
leaves if the stems are cut the proper length and
are firmed in the medium properly. This does
away with tooth pick propping, etc.

Some care must be taken not to over-water
as there is no drainage in the pans, but, by being
cautious, you should not encounter trouble.

As you know, vermiculite is only a medium
for rooting with no food value, so when I transfer
the little plants from the parent leaf into another
pan of vermiculite and Zonolite to develop them
further, I add a very slight amount of potting
soil -- only about one part to six or eight of the
medium. This way I never have to feed the small
plants -- another easy way!

Both leaves and plants are marked with white
plastic markers behind them and placed in good
light and kept damp. The plants are grown in
these pans until unbelievably large and with an
astounding amount of roots before potting up in
three inch pots. Nothing but sheer neglect or
severe mistreatment could kill a plant so grown.

Twelve plants may be grown in a pan, three
to a row. The watering problem is slight and the
pan takes up very little space -- one more easy
way!

A narrow band of foil paper held together
with scotch tape should always be used around
the top of a porous clay pot to avoid the bottom
row of leaves from coming in contact with the
moisture of the pot. Paraffin is inclined to mold
and a nuisance when the old pots need sterilizing.

An African violet does not appreciate being
root bound any more than being over-potted. If

you know your plants have a heavy root system, then you may feel free to use larger pots.

In transplanting a large plant, never try to pry the plant out of the pot, but instead, break the pot with a hammer. Now the plant is ready to be dropped intact into a larger pot without disturbing the roots. You must spoon slightly damp soil around the plant, firming it down occasionally with the fingers to be sure it is secure in the pot. Lastly, give it water. I have yet to see a plant wilt that has been transplanted this way.

A plant with poor roots potted in too large a pot is sure to get into trouble. In watering, one naturally saturates all the soil, but if you do not have a good root system to absorb the moisture in a short time, the soil stays a sodden mass. Since air cannot pass through wet soil and roots must have it, they soon die. Leaves then wilt and crown rot follows. If a plant needs water only once a week, a good guess is that it is over-potted.

Watering African violets can be a very simple procedure if water is given from the bottom in a saucer -- then only when the top soil is dry. Enough water should be given to thoroughly moisten all of the soil. For me it takes about one-fourth cup of water (warm water always) for a three inch pot, about every other day, depending, of course, on the weather and many other conditions and circumstances. Water from the top occasionally to wash the salts back down into the soil.

Potting soil should be light and porous. By using equal parts of soil, peat-moss and leaf-mold with some sand and a little bone-meal (a three inch pot to a bushel), one cannot go wrong. Soil is not as important as often believed. As long as either good garden soil with some form of humus or woods soil is used, you are almost certain to have all of the essential minerals and nitrogen required to grow good plants.

I do highly recommend complete sterilization of the soil mixture if you are raising any number of plants. I bake the soil in the oven in a three gallon roaster, with cover. First, I put two quarts of water in the bottom of the roaster; then the soil with another quart of water on top to form steam. The length of time it is baked depends on the temperature of the oven. It must maintain one hundred and eighty degrees for at least one-half hour. This may be ascertained by pushing a thermometer into the center of the soil. Such precaution from nematodes alone is well worth the labor involved.

Soil bacteria builds back into the soil readily from the air, so after a couple of days it may be used again.

African violets do not actually require feeding, but this pays good dividends by producing better blooms and more vigorous plants. Feeding once or twice a month with a well balanced food should be sufficient. A little goes a long way, so do not resort to the old saying that if a little is good, more would be better. Too much fertilizer may burn the tips of the roots.

Temperature may vary considerably before there need be any concern about the welfare of your violets, although a cool room, around sixty degrees to seventy degrees is more to their liking.

Sufficient humidity will keep buds and blooms from falling off excessively. Since most of our homes are very dry, some means of adding humidity should be supplied. Even a pan of water placed under a plant that is sitting in its own dish, will add some moisture.

Fresh air is always welcomed, but is not a necessity. There are too many other factors much more important.

Without good light all day, one may expect only partial success. That is how important light can be. Many of us do not have good window space to supply sufficient light for all of the violets we wish to grow, so fluorescent lights are the solution. In combination with day-light, they are ideal, but even prove successful when used in the basement without benefit of day-light. The double forty-eight inch white or day-light tubes with reflectors are used extensively, but do not hesitate to use the single lights without reflectors. Placed close enough together, they will get the job done well. The general length of time to run them is from twelve to sixteen hours. Experience will teach you the distance to place them above your plants. Mine vary from eight to twenty-one inches, the lower lights being over the smaller plants. One should aim to grow a stout, sturdy plant with short enough petioles to keep the plant compact and with leaves a good deep green color. If given strong enough light, blooming will be very profuse and in most cases the plant will give a flat appearance, thus enabling you to judge when the correct height is obtained.

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It is a mistaken idea that the sun must never touch African violets. They revel in moderately warm sunshine, but a hot sun is disastrous. It will practically destroy a plant in short order by burning the leaves so the plant is worthless. There is just that much difference between a warm and a hot sun. A hand placed over the plant will soon tell you whether or not the sun is too hot.

An east window is an ideal location during the winter, but the summer sun is too hot in any window. A cross light such as light from an east and south, or west and south window, is ideal, giving plenty of light all day. Although many growers prefer the north exposure, I have no success what-so-ever in that location. Bloom for me is inferior, small and faded looking and the whole plant has a spindly anemic appearance. Small plants may be put there for a short time until a better place can be found. A white house opposite the north windows will supply enough reflected light to be of great benefit, but I am not that fortunate.

During the summer, the north windows are filled to the brim for it is then that all of the coolest places are sought out. The windows are kept open as much as possible, allowing air to circulate all around the plants, draft or no draft, for it is the close hot air of summer that causes many African violets to wilt and die.

Even a north, east and south screened-in porch with bamboo shades to keep out sun, wind and rain is used. It becomes very hot there during the day time, but the coolness of the night invigorates the plants and encourages them to withstand the next day's onslaught. Plants under such heat conditions are not encouraged to grow or bloom; therefore, they are not fed during the summer and if they have energy enough to bloom, they are immediately relieved of their bloom stems. Water is held down to a minimum. After a summer's rest under such treatment, they are fit and rarin' to go when cool weather arrives.

In summarizing the most important steps in the A. B. C.'s of African violet growing, let me say that first of all, be sure your small plants have a heavy root system before taking them from the medium to pot up in soil; second, do not over-pot; third, have a loose porous soil; fourth, water intelligently and only when the top soil is dry; fifth, do not over-fertilize and last, but not least, furnish good strong light at all times.

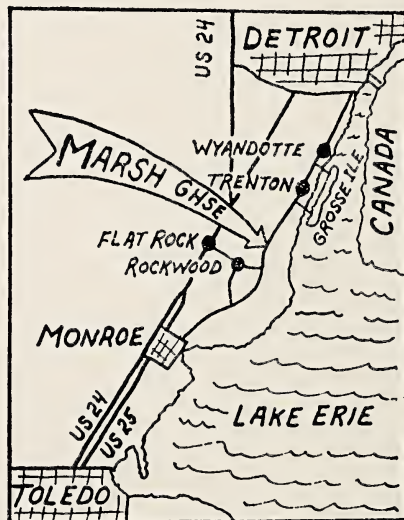
And now for just one more remark -- if you are having success growing violets and your method is different from mine, by all means do not change as your good success might fail with my method.

THE END

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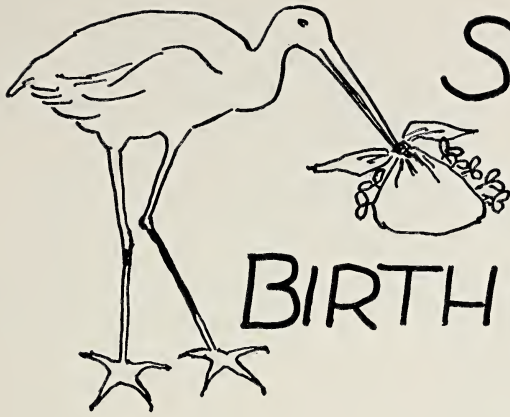
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SEEDLINGS FROM BIRTH TO BLOOM



Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

So you pollinated a blossom -- how nice! And you wonder what happens next. Well here's the story. (I don't write as an expert -- just as a hobbyist who has had fun doing this.) If it "takes," you'll see the blossom drop if it's a single bloom. On doubles the petals get dry, and eventually you can ease them away from the pod. The pod starts to get fat. Some get really large, while others develop but stay relatively small. Don't worry -- things are happening inside. After seven to nine months, the pod will get brown and dry looking. Take it off carefully. You may plant it at once, but I like to "cure" it in a warm, dry place for two or three weeks.

Now you prepare a seed bed. Use a rectangular aquarium, a pyrex bread pan or a plastic ice box dish -- any are good. Put at least one inch of fine chicken charcoal in the bottom. This is drainage and acts as a soil sweetener. Again you have a choice -- the next layer may be: (1) vermiculite, (2) vermiculite and "broadleaf," German peat, half and half, or (3) milled sphagnum moss. There are other mediums too, which I have not tried. To any of these I add earthworm castings and mix thoroughly. Moisten medium with warm water and wait until it settles. Then open the pod carefully on white paper. I like to use a razor blade for this. Get all the seeds on paper. They are like black pepper, but each one is precious. Sprinkle on the moist medium, trying to distribute evenly. Cover with glass or dish cover or plastic, set it in a warm -- not too light -- place and wait. Sometimes you have time to knit a sweater while you are waiting for germination. Then again, you may get only one sock knitted. But one day you'll see tiny green specks, and you'll know it's the long-awaited Blessed Event. They may not all come up at the same time. Germination may go on over a period of weeks.

Now they may be moved to a lighter spot, but no direct sun, please! Wipe off the excess moisture that gathers on the lid. When they grow four true leaves it's time to transplant. I like to use a toothpick to ease them out. You

may plant in a prepared flat of light soil, or put each one in a one and three-fourth inch pot. Give them plenty of light now. At the time of transplanting I use weak -- and I do mean weak -- plant food with B₁ in it. At this point, soil should not be too heavy in fertilizer, especially nitrogen. The young plants can't use it, and a toxic condition may result. As they grow sturdy, again transplant, and this soil can be that which you use for adult plants -- always porous to permit air passage, and enough humus to prevent quick drying-out. Some will bloom in ten months, others will take longer. You may not have developed any spectacular foliage or outstanding bloom in the whole lot, but the first blossom will be an event in your life equalled only to Baby's first tooth.

So have fun -- and good growing to you.
THE END

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Preparing for the Rock Island show are Mrs. Benner, Mrs. Barta and Mrs. Jackson



Mrs. W. G. White, with her "Queen of the Show" plant -- Greater Akron Society show



Right, Mrs. S. D. Smith, winner of the Gold Ribbon; and left, Mrs. O. J. Coppock, winner of the Purple Ribbon, Beaumont show

SHOW *News and Views*

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI

The Little Theatre of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri, was the setting for the fourth Annual African Violet show staged by the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, on February 20 and 21, 1954.

The stage of the theatre was set up in a beautiful African panorama by Fredrick Bergman, president of the club, showing the natural surroundings under which violets flourish in their native habitat.

The plant judged best in the show was a large Lavender Beauty from the collection of Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas. In addition to her best plant victory, she won the National Award for the best collection of three registered named varieties. She won with Pink Wonder, Curley DuPont and Red Waves.

Mrs. Albert Zagar won second honors with Lavender Beauty, Red Wings, and Sea Girl.

The show was judged by Mrs. Milton Bumbacker, Mrs. H. W. Martin and Mrs. B. A. Hartenbower.

The show colors of blue and yellow were used extensively and decoratively throughout the Little Theatre. The dresses worn by Mrs. E. F. Dunlap, show chairman, and the shirts worn by Mr. W. A. Smithson, co-chairman, were especially

made for them for the occasion and carried out the show colors.

Fischer's Flowers of Linwood, New Jersey, represented by Paul Rockelman, won top honors in the commercial exhibits with a most artistic display of the newest varieties from the eastern firm. Special displays were set up by the following local commercial growers; Keller Nursery, Nel's Violet House, Paylic's Rollacart Nursery, Mrs. George Pendleton, Quality Hill Nursery, and the Violet Villa Greenhouse. Cash awards were made by Quality Hill, Violet Villa, Keller Nursery, Mary Hines, Leota Dunlap, Nel's Violet House, Helen Montgomery, Mrs. Pendleton and Mrs. L. D. Arnold.

At the close of the show the club held a party to celebrate their fourth birthday. A cake, beautifully decorated with yellow candles and violet flowers fashioned from colored frosting, was cut and enjoyed by the members. A silver cup inscribed "To the Show Chairman, Mrs. E. F. Dunlap, 1954" was presented to her by the members in appreciation of an outstanding show. A vase containing two dozen red roses, tied with the show colors, was also presented to her. Mrs. Pendleton presented her with a plant of Kansas City Girl, a new origination of this outstanding local grower.

Officers for the club are:

President,
Vice-Pres.,

Frederick Bergman
Mrs. Forrest Hopper

Rec. Secy.,
Corres. Secy.,
Treasurer,
Historian,

Ada Barnes
Alice Ricketts
Frank Morgan
Mrs. L. A. Smart

DAYTON AND GREENVILLE SHOW

"Spring Time" was the theme for the show staged by African violet clubs of Dayton and Greenville, Ohio, April 30 and May 1, at the First E. U. B. Church of Dayton. The social room of that new Colonial-style church provided a spacious, cheerful setting for a beautiful show. The stage was the center of interest, with invitational club displays interpreting the theme of the show. Pictured before the exhibit, "Gateway to Paradise," done by the Treaty Towne African Violet Club of Greenville, are Mrs. Ralph W. Berst, chairman of the show, and Mrs. Paul Herrick, wife of the pastor of the hostess church and a member of the Amethyst African Violet Club of Dayton. The latter club's display featured a maypole.

Registered in the guest book were six hundred and thirty-two persons, including those from Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, and South Carolina.

There were thirty-seven exhibitors and three hundred and twenty-eight pots of African violets, including all classifications, amateur, commercial, and invitational. There were seventy-two ribbons given in the amateur division, with Mrs. Gilbert D. Wolf, Ionantha Chapter of Dayton, winning sweepstakes with a total of fourteen ribbons. Runner-up was Mrs. Everett Strader of Union City, Indiana, member of the Treaty Towne Club of Greenville, with a total of eight. Mrs. Gilbert

D. Wolf also brought honor to the show by winning the Gold Ribbon or First Award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., for the best collection of three registered named varieties. These plants were Pink Cheer, Crinkles, and Sailor's Delight.

Sweepstakes in the commercial division was won by Mrs. Pauline Gross, with a total of nineteen ribbons. Mrs. Marguerite Bailey of the Treaty Towne Club was runner-up, with a total of eleven ribbons.

The judges were: Mrs. Lee L. Howard, Columbus, Ohio, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Markley, Richmond, Indiana. Mrs. B. A. Hall of Dayton, was co-chairman of the show.

ROCK ISLAND SHOW

Does the general public LOVE African violets? Well, they do at Rock Island, Illinois, where ten thousand persons attended the African Violet Show, March 21, at Watch Tower Inn, Blackhawk State Park. According to park officials the crowd was the largest to attend any event in the history of the park. The show was sponsored by Rock Island African Violet Club, with Mrs. George W. Benner as general chairman. Other clubs from Davenport and Moline lent capable assistance and presented effective displays.

This was the initial effort of the Rock Island Club which was organized only last October, with Mrs. George W. Benner as president, Mrs. S. F. Barta, vice-president, and Mrs. P. W. Jackson, secretary.

Among out-of-town visitors were Mrs. E. G. Magill, national president of the African Violet Society; Mrs. L. B. Hotchkiss of Peoria, Illinois,

Pomona Valley show: Mrs. Jochimsen, Mrs. Horedephel, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Mueller

Buggy wheel, used in Green Bay show, exhibited by designer, Mrs. Stein

At the Memphis show, members used a musical theme to display their plants





The Union County show: Mrs. Howard, Mrs. Lawrence and Mrs. Couser



At Ohio Valley show: Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Philabaum, Patty Philabaum and Mrs. Cochran

'53 national sweepstakes winner; Mrs. Herbert Mason of Peoria, Illinois, and Mrs. Mason Marshall of Sycamore, Illinois, Mrs. Benner's daughter.

Four hundred and fifty-seven individual plants were shown in various arrangements, some on display tables, others in novel containers. A main feature was the educational table, where violets were displayed at all stages of growth, and demonstrations of soil mixtures, potting methods, rooting materials, etc., made to the public.

The Youth Display aroused a great deal of favorable comment for displays were limited to exhibits by children from five to seventeen years old, and many adults were amazed at their prowess.

Films of Tinari's Greenhouse drew applause, as well as slides taken in Mrs. Benner's home and a film lent by the Davenport Women's Club on diseased plants. Rock Islanders are now looking forward to other shows in the vicinity and hope they will be very successful.

BEAUMONT TEXAS

"Violet Gems of Texas" was the theme of the third annual Beaumont, Texas, African violet show held March 27 and 28.

Feature attraction was a large "Star of Texas" which was painted a pale pink and held six beautiful specimen plants of Sea Girl. In front of this a round, tiered table displayed thirty-seven outstanding seedlings grown by Mrs. George Vallin.

Displays of special interest were a cart with fluorescent lights and filled with violets; a propagation table; and a display of new varieties arranged as gems. These "violet gems" were placed in a setting of white satin and gold foil. a maypole was displayed beautifully on a separate table.

Plants were grouped on tiered tables according to color and foliage, novel planters, and decorative arrangements. An arrangement of violets planted in swans, grouped on a mirror; a gilded wheelbarrow filled with violets with a splashy pink bow on its side; and a tug boat, "Lone Star" pulling barges of violets, were favorites among the visitors.

Introduced by the Barber Greenhouse and displayed for the first time was a beautiful pink and green variegated *Episcia cupreata*.

The show was judged by Mrs. C. R. Ballard Montgomery, Alabama, National African violet judge; Mrs. K. W. Schultz of Port Arthur, Texas, and Mrs. R. L. Stuart of Beaumont, Texas, both National flower judges.

Mrs. Sidney D. Smith of Orange, Texas, won the National Gold Ribbon, scoring ninety-seven, and the sweepstakes award, a silver tray, with fifteen blue ribbons. She also received the tri-color awards in horticulture and arrangements. Mrs. O. J. Coppock of Beaumont, scoring 90.3, won the second National Award, the Purple Ribbon. Mrs. Mike Peveto was runner-up for sweepstakes with five blue ribbons. In the junior division, a new feature this year, Karen Coppock, and Lucy Sale were blue ribbon winners.

Mrs. Smith served as show chairman.

SPRINGFIELD SHOW

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, held their sixth annual show May 1st in the auditorium of the Central School. Mrs. J. E. Paxton, chairman, Mrs. J. Victor Turner was co-chairman.

Although we are only twenty-five in number, we feel we gave the public a very good idea of how African violets can be grown in the home. There were one hundred and sixty eight varieties among the specimen plants on display. The tables were covered with fringed monks cloth and

arranged so the public could view them from each side.

Our table was devoted to the relations of the African violets. In the center was a large S. grotei in a cut glass vase almost reaching the table. Also a strawberry jar filled with blooming plants was on display.

There were fifteen arrangements featuring plants which were placed on the stage in front of a dark green curtain. Among these were violets with other plants, some using drift wood, a sea shell was used along with pink lily-of-the-valley. We also had miniature arrangements. A display using an antique bowl and pitcher filled with violets on a table of the same period.

Our propagation table was always busy with folks asking questions about their plants. Mrs. R. G. Frye displayed a brick on which she had planted seeds, also many other ways of propagation. Fertilizers were being tested on some of her own seedlings. Our fluorescent lights were quite a point of interest.

Our Hostesses were in attendance to answer questions at all times.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PIONEER VALLEY

May is the month to which all look forward. Nature has put on her spring mantle for sure. May was the month the African Violet Society of Pioneer Valley looked forward to since last fall, and all our Saintpaulias heard the rumors of an exhibition and did their utmost to show off so they could be selected for public approval.

Membership in the African Violet Society of Pioneer Valley is from Springfield, West Springfield, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow. The membership total now is fifteen with many applications for membership since the exhibition.

A selection committee of four visited each member of the club in Janaury and suggested

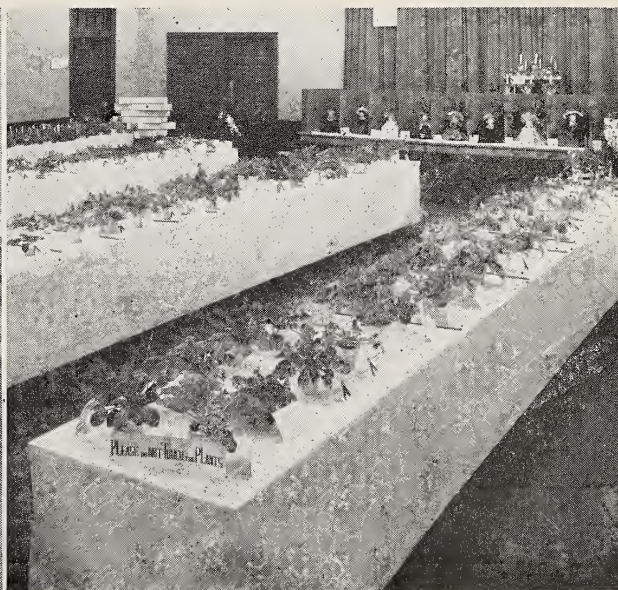
All members of the Omaha Society were costumed for the show

the plants most likely for the exhibition. This prevented an excess of duplicates. Again, one week before the exhibition, the committee visited each member and made a final selection of the plants to be exhibited. The results meant a beautiful array of one hundred and twenty named varieties of African violets, with a total of approximately two hundred and fifty plants exhibited to the public.

This being our first venture to present our plants, it was decided to have an educational exhibition of African violets, and invite the public, with no admission charge. Our exhibition was held Tuesday, May 4, 1954, at the Museum of Natural History, Springfield, Massachusetts, at the hours of 1:00 p. m. to 5:00 p. m., and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Museum people were most cooperative, and let us use space in their central exhibition hall. Attendance proved without doubt we needed all the space available. Long tables covered with embossed white paper, were used and the display was on three tiers on each table. The plants were shown at eye level, and the name of each plant on the signs were large enough to be seen easily by all, including the bi-focal set.

The versatility of the African violet for table arrangements was beautifully shown, and a surprise to everyone. However, hostesses in charge of these two tables pointed out that many of the holders were used for special occasions and not the general way to grow these popular plants. A miniature garden gate and arbor was flanked on each side by identical blooming plants, with philodendron growing over the arbor, and a doll-lady dressed in lavender coming through the garden gate. A strawberry jar showed sixteen different African violet varieties. An antique coffee grinder had a plant inserted; a conch (shell) held trailing ivy and a Sunrise blossomed plant; an old castor held small pots of violets in bloom in each of its condiment bottle openings. A push cart made by a husband of one of the members, held beautiful plants of Snow Prince. A pint sized coffee cup with "Mother"

Tables of plants on display at the Maryland African violet show.





Unusual display at the fourth annual show of the clubs of Twin Cities and Vicinity

on it holding a plum colored seedling gave many an idea for a gift for approaching Mother's Day. A blue glass slipper held cut violets which delighted the eye. Fancy glazed flower pots were there, terrariums and fish bowl arrangements met with approval. A copper dish with a center of an African violet, and three matching candles gleamed with pride. There were many other arrangements too numerous to describe here.

After seeing violets as they should be, then the public had an opportunity to see demonstrations of various ways of propagating our pet Saintpaulias, from seed, from leaf cuttings, and in various mediums, some with and without a hormone powder starter; others in water, in sand, Terralite, charcoal and sand, and many other different ways.

The demonstration table was flanked about six deep at all times. The watchers were asked what they wanted to see demonstrated, progress potting, separating double crowns, separating seedlings, taking small plantlets from the parent leaf, etc., and after each demonstration, which was a continuous show, a question period followed, and it was then one realized just how popular these house plants are, the love expended on them, and how much they are cherished.

At another section of the hall a "hospital" zone had pictures on a bulletin board, colored slides were shown and information given on the pests and diseases, and different maladies such as leaf spot, from water and fertilizer; enlarged pictures of cyclamen mite; results of nematodes in the earth; and pictures of aphids were included.

Filtered sunlight for violets was shown, with a rigged-up sun in the form of a flood light which could be moved showing the different times of the day, and the results with a "Kool-Shade" screening being used. An interested husband built a complete window filled with glass shelves to hold his wife's violets, and had the "Kool-Shade" screening.



Mr. Herrond, Mrs. Niesley and Mrs. Schneider are pictured at the Syracuse show

Many thanks are to be extended to the "Male Auxiliary" for the help to the club for building some of our display material.

The newspapers were generous in accepting our publicity submitted to them, and the day of the exhibition sent one of their feature writers with a photographer, and the newspaper account the following day was most gratifying. Our three local radio stations gave us spot announcements the day before and the day of the exhibition. People came from a sixty mile radius, and one car from over in New York State traveled over two hundred miles, and another carload came from New Hampshire.

We were tired at the end of the day, but had that contented, self-satisfied feeling of a job well done. There was no admission charge, and the director of the Museum said it was the largest crowd brought into the museum at one time. Attendance reached over the thousand mark for just the one day exhibition.

MISSOURI AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

The Missouri African Violet Society held its third annual show, April 3 and 4, at Hannibal, Missouri, sponsored by the Mark Twain African Violet Club of Hannibal. Mr. John Griffin served as show chairman. The four seasonal arrangements using African violets, which had been prepared by the Mark Twain African Violet Club, added much interest as well as beauty to the display room. Another highlight was the large arrangement in the center of the room with a statue of Mark Twain sitting in a chair at the top of a very large mound of African violets.

There were approximately three hundred plants in the specimen classes, and about thirty arrangements entered in competition by twenty-five exhibitors, twenty-two of whom won prizes. The sweepstake prize, for the largest number of blue ribbons, was won by Mrs. Howard Gottman of Hannibal.

Mrs. E. G. Magill, Aurora, Illinois, president of the African Violet Society of America, was the speaker for the Saturday evening banquet. The following officers were elected for 1954-55 to take office the first of June. President, John Griffin, Hannibal; First Vice-President, Mrs. M. F. Clyde, Marshall; Second Vice-President, Dr. James E. Smith, University of Missouri, Columbia; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Howard Gottman, Hannibal; Membership Secretary, Mrs. Fred Eikerman, Marshall; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Raymond Newman, Kinderhook, Illinois; Treasurer, Mrs. C. R. Yowell, Marshall; Historian, Mrs. R. J. Soph, Boonville.

1955 Honorary Membership was awarded to Mrs. H. R. Kreitz, retiring president who will be making her home in Arizona.

Visitors came to Hannibal to view the exhibit from Illinois, Iowa, Tennessee, New Hampshire, Indiana, Kansas, and many towns in Missouri. Everyone who contributed to the success of the show felt well rewarded as it was highly praised by the enthusiastic crowd of flower lovers who attended.

The Missouri African Violet Society was organized August 23, 1951, as a stepping stone between local African violet clubs and the African Violet Society of America. Such a few are able to attend the National Convention, that it was our hopes that our State Society would give many African violet enthusiasts a chance to enjoy an African violet show, who had never had such a privilege before. It has helped us to become better acquainted with others in the state who share our hobby of raising African violets. It has stimulated more interest in local African violet clubs and helped to tie them together with our National Society. Anyone who enjoys African violets and lives or belongs to an African violet club in Missouri is eligible to become a member.

"Gateway to Paradise" was the theme of the Dayton, Ohio show

The August 23, 1951 meeting was called by Mrs. W. H. Odom, Marshall, Missouri, and was held in her home. Mrs. Odom was at that time serving as Regional Director for Region number six of the African Violet Society of America, which included Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska.

OMAHA SHOW

The Omaha African Violet Club held its seventh annual show at the Joslyn Art Museum the 27th and 28th of March.

As this is Omaha's Centennial year, the centennial colors of pink and blue were carried out as near as possible. The thirty-four members of the society were in old-fashioned costumes to add to the Omaha Centennial theme. An unusual display were the figures "100" worked out in pink and blue African violets.

Another display featured a western plains setting, with a log cabin and a pack of mule carts carrying violets.

As usual the table on African Violet Culture, covering the raising of plants from leaves and seeds was very popular. On this table also on display were the ingredients used in mixing African violet soil.

The show plants were placed on tiered tables covered with gold lace pattern foil which set off the plants to full advantage.

The novelty table was one of the attractions to draw a lot of attention. There were many lovely violets in unique and antique containers. A birthday cake of violets and a hanging basket was on display on this table also.

At least five thousand persons from local and surrounding areas and other states viewed the exhibits.

Mrs. L. L. Rentschler is president of the society and Mrs. H. Swingholm was the show chairman.

At Greenville show: Front, Mrs. Burks, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. McPherson; Back, Mrs. Malone, Mrs. Mercer and Mrs. Genet





Pictured is the membership of the Maryland African Violet Club

MARYLAND SHOW

The Maryland African Violet Club held its third annual exhibit in Baltimore on April 16 and 17.

The show was highly successful. The person whose responsibility was to estimate the attendance calculated in the neighborhood of five thousand visitors. Hundreds of entries were judged and the following persons received awards:

Most Outstanding Plant—Mrs. John H. Klohr

Outstanding Arrangement—Mrs. Curtis H. Brown

Sweepstakes Award—Mrs. George L. Froehlich and Mrs. Herman Graf, Jr.

All varieties of African violets were sold to the public and the proceeds will be donated to charity.

SYRACUSE SHOW

The Syracuse African Violet Society sponsored their second annual show, May 8 and 9, at the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts. Mrs. A. W. Niesley, show chairman, reported that five hundred African violets were entered and one hundred entries were made in the arrangement classes. More than two thousand persons from throughout central New York attended the two day show which occupied the entire first floor of the Museum.

YORK SHOW

The African Violet Society of York, Pennsylvania, held its first African violet show on Saturday, April 3, 1954, from 10:00 a. m. to 8:00 p. m. at 121 N. Beaver Street, York, Pennsylvania. Arrangements for the event were in charge of Mrs. Phillip Filing, general chairman. Contributions were made by all the members, bringing over two hundred plants collectively, representing over one hundred and fifty varieties.

The displays were made on white metal stands of three tiers each, and other shelf arrangements



"Violets in Storybook Land" was the theme of the Northern Hills Society show

like and similar to the one in the picture. When shelves were not painted white they were covered with white crepe paper. Large crepe paper violets in various shades were used in decorating. These were made by Mrs. Paul Frey, a member of the unit and one of the committee in charge of arrangements.

Publicity for the event was done through the medium of newspapers, also posters which were hand printed and decorated and placed in advantageous positions in and around the city.

More than two hundred and twenty-five persons witnessed the display. This popularity of the exhibit made the members of the unit decide immediately to make it an annual affair.

RICHMOND SHOW

The Richmond African Violet Society of Richmond, Virginia, held their fourth annual violet show, the theme of which was "Harbingers of Spring," at the Carillon on April 10 and 11, 1954. Mrs. George Rogers was chairman and Mrs. G. W. Goddin and Mrs. R. T. Hackett were co-chairmen.

Mr. W. P. Compton won the sweepstakes award in horticulture and Mrs. Joe T. Mizell in arrangements. Mrs. Gibson C. Phillips and Mrs. B. S. Cooke were runners-up. Mr. Compton was also tri-color winner in horticulture, his Blue Jane being rated the best plant in the show. Among the outstanding exhibits were the seedlings of Mrs. Martha Gothright of Hot Springs, Virginia, and the gloxinias exhibited by Mr. G. L. Clyborne of Petersburg, Virginia, and also by Mr. Henry Evans, a Richmond hybridizer.

At their March meeting the club had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Janet Stuart Durham discuss "Roses of History." Miss Mary Sheppard, of Chula, Virginia, was the guest speaker in April, her topic being "African Violet Cousins." The May program was entitled, "Let's Go to the Convention." Mr. Harvey Hudson of W L E E acted as emcee and interviewed members not only

in regards to the St. Louis Convention but also on various phases of the club's work.

A cordial invitation is extended to all violet club members to meet with us at the Battery Park Community House the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

SIoux CITY SHOW

The Home African Violet Society of Sioux City, Iowa, is a group limited to twenty members, meeting in the homes once each month. Each hostess displays her plants giving the care, soil mixture, water protection from diseases and cure applied. This affords the membership a year round show climaxed in the spring by a tea and open house. April 6th was tea time this year, held in the home of Mrs. Ray Smith, vice-president of the club. The gorgeous display dismayed even the members and the manager of Martin's Department Store was so well pleased he asked that the show be repeated in their store May 17 and 18 and suggested that next year's tea be held there. Mrs. Alice Buresh was tea chairman. Mrs. J. L. DeWitt, former resident of South Africa, eighty years young, poured. Mrs. Clifford Schrunk created Queen Saintpaulia and her Court.

Officers for the club are:

President,	Mrs. F. Stanley Rheinhart
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. F. Ray Smith
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Jack Reid
Secretary,	Mrs. Irving MacArthur
Treasurer,	Mrs. G. P. Mason

LAWRENCE SHOW

The Lawrence African Violet Club of Lawrence, Kansas, in conjunction with clubs from Eudora and Baldwin held a show on April 3 and 4, 1954, in the Lawrence Community Building.

The best plant in the show was awarded to Mrs. R. L. Welton of Meriden, Kansas, for her Sailor Girl. Mrs. R. B. Hartman, Lawrence, Kansas, won the National Gold Ribbon Award for three best registered varieties, her plants being Blue Warrior, Azure Beauty and Pink

Attractive display at Neosha, Missouri, show with Mrs. Graham in attendance

Cheer. Mrs. Fred Kloepple of Lawrence won the Purple Ribbon Award with Sea Girl, Holly and Star Sapphire. Mrs. William Neis of Eudora won the most blue ribbons and also the award for entering the most plants in the show.

Three hundred plants were entered and one thousand persons registered at the door to view the show.

ROCHESTER SHOW

Once again the African Violet Society of Rochester, New York, and Vicinity took the spotlight of flower shows in this city, when the sixth annual show was presented on May 16, 1954, in the Museum of Arts and Sciences. Nearly three thousand visitors viewed the four hundred plants on display, as well as many attractive entries in special classes of self culture, non members and decorative displays and the beautiful displays by the dealers.

Mrs. Fred Flory, of Geneseo, with her forty-one entries won thirty-nine ribbons including the Queen of the Show, Lowa; also her Autumn was runner-up. She was named the sweepstakes winner, while Mrs. Ray Welch, with twelve ribbons was runner-up. Mrs. Robert Slocombe won the National Society's Gold Ribbon with Azure Beauty, Holly and Pink Cheer. Mr. Lewis Cook of Gainesville, New York, was runner-up. Mrs. Flory won the New York State African Violet Society rosette with her Coronation plant.

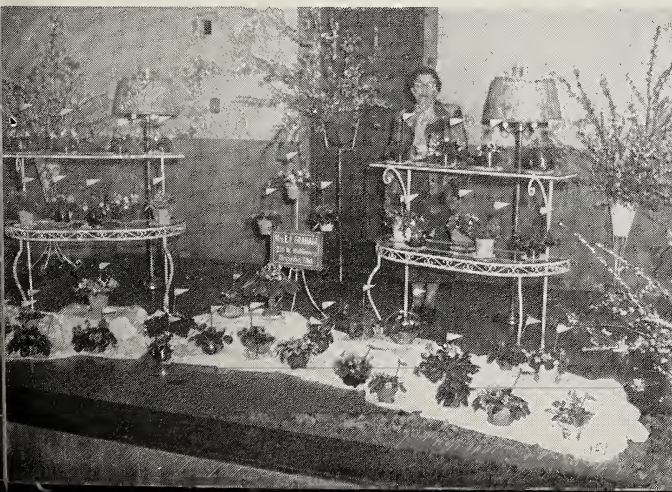
The culture table was most interesting and informative and was presented by Mr. and Mrs. August Deisinger with Miss Mae Crompton of Batavia assisting.

Mrs. Harry V. Thompson was co-chairman of the show along with Mrs. Charles Anthony, president of the club. The decorative classes were under the chairmanship of Mrs. Floyd Stevens.

JACKSON SHOW

The Jackson African Violet Club of Jackson, Michigan, presented its third annual display at the St. Paul's Parish House on April 29, 1954.

Left to right, Mrs. Schrunk, Mrs. Rheinhart, Miss Lynch, Mrs. Leonard, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Petty





The very original Beatrice, Nebraska, African violet show in progress

Approximately three hundred and fifty guests from Jackson and surrounding communities viewed two hundred and sixty-six choice plants.

In the center of the stage in the front of the auditorium was an enlarged duplicate of the National pin. Also on the stage were the doubles and the Royalties in their purple foil mats. Tables of unusual and outstanding plants were of great interest. There was also an outdoor and calendar table depicting each month of the year. In the center of another table was a huge wedding cake adorned with many small plants. Surrounding the cake were plants in antique and other beautiful dishes.

The children that attended were interested in the tiny plants in tiny pots displayed in doll house nursery furniture. The girl plants and the seedlings were also there. The highlight of the display were two beautiful large du Ponts.

The "sit and chat corner" was a very popular place and was in use a great deal of the time.

Mrs. Lisle Goff was general chairman and Mrs. Robert Preston was publicity chairman.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

Members of the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club entered an African violet exhibit, as a club group, in the Hartford, Connecticut Flower Show which was sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, the Connecticut Horticultural Society and the Hartford Times. The flower show was held at the West Hartford Armory from March 14 through March 20, and was the first time the Saintpaulia club had entered, as a group, in this annual Hartford Flower show.

The exhibit was awarded the Gold Medal Award, as well as the Blue Ribbon Award. African violet plants of club members were also judged individually, and winner of the first award was Mrs. Ernest C. Lowell of Rocky Hill and the second award went to the club's president, Mrs. Ralph M. Filson.



Featuring arrangements -- the lovely show at Lawrence, Missouri

The exhibit was appropriately placed in a natural setting of peat moss surrounded by a wall of concrete brick, and because of the genuine interest displayed throughout the week by the hundreds of viewers, it will serve as an inspiration to the club to have a bigger and better exhibit next year.

UNION COUNTY SHOW

Violets of every hue greeted the guests at the first exhibit and plant sale staged by the Union County Chapter (New Jersey) on April 10, 1954. Four hundred guests "Ohed" and "Ahed" during the six hours that the show was open.

There were one hundred and twenty-eight entries in the specimen classes with seventy-eight varieties represented. These were placed on tables in the center of the room. Around two sides were the arrangement classes with several outstanding entries. Center back showed a large entry of Gesneriads in a natural setting. There were thirty-two plants in this, including the background, and it was accompanied by a large chart explaining that the varieties used are native to tropical America, Asia and Africa. The "girls" had a spot all to themselves -- a large white plant holder with a doll dressed in an old fashioned orchid costume, holding in her hands orchid ribbons that extended to each pot.

A tea room where weary guests might refresh themselves and a propagation table was of tremendous interest.

SIOUXLAND SOCIETY

The Siouxland African Violet Society, of Sioux City, Iowa, held its third annual show at the new Sioux City Art Center, Saturday, April 10, 1954 from 9:00 a. m. till 8:00 p. m.

Twenty exhibitors and commercial growers displayed their Saintpaulias for about four hundred visitors who attended the exhibit. An educational display and about three hundred and seventeen violets were exhibited in various ways

-- from miniature greenhouses to huge bottles, strawberry jars, rose bowls and unusual pottery vases. Plants, leaves, seeds and unnamed seedlings and supplies were sold to help meet expenses and help buy chairs for the Art Center.

Mrs. Vern Larson was the general chairman, ably assisted by Mrs. Alson Smith; Mrs. Elizabeth Sheffield; Miss Marguerite King; Mrs. Frank Thomas, Jr.; Mrs. D. F. Foss; Mrs. Suzanne Vloanderen; Mrs. Everett Heinle; Mrs. Bruce Bellows and Mrs. Ruth Petersen.

MASON CITY SHOW

The African Violet Society of Mason City, Iowa presented its third annual African violet exhibit on April 30, 1954, at the local Y W C A. Thirty-five members displayed four hundred plants representing over two hundred varieties.

"African Violets on Parade" was the theme of the exhibit. The plants were arranged on tables covered with white sheets that touched the floor to make "floats." Yellow paper was placed in one foot strips where the foil wrapped pots of plants were lined up on the tables. Varieties weren't classed as to separate colors, but each member, or groups of members, arranged their float as they wished.

Some of the floats were: infants' department, -- a stork and baby violets in a cradle; two for tea with plants in various tea services and head planters; Maypole display; April showers; rainbow of doubles; violets' home, complete with little house full of African violets and a front lawn; balance your hobby with violets had wooden scales full of plants; grandmother's favorites in glass, china and old fashioned dishes; violet haven with a table full of plants arranged around a White Madonna statue; and an arrangement using old copper containers filled with plants.

A well equipped propagation and plant food display was a popular table. Three lectures were given throughout the day on dividing small plants, repotting and pollination.

Members in charge of the Dunkirk-Fredonia African violet show

Over four hundred and fifty attended the exhibit with thirty-eight towns in Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota being represented.

The fourth annual show of the African Violet Clubs of the Twin Cities and vicinity was held on April 8, 1954, in the L. S. Donaldson Company Department Store, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Each of the twenty-five Affiliated clubs, as well as six commercial home-growers and four professional violet growers, displayed their finest violets. Pep-O-Plant, the product of a local member, was featured in one exhibit. The membership table dispensed information concerning the National African Violet Society and the Twin Cities Violet Club organization. The ever-present crowd around the tables devoted to fluorescent light culture, propagation and diseases of the violet, attested to the popularity of this section of the show. Everyone, it seems, had a problem which the "experts" were asked to solve.

CEDAR RAPIDS SHOW

The third annual show of the Cedar Valley African Violet Club, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was held in the auditorium of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Members of eastern Iowa exhibited over two hundred and sixty plants. Mrs. Thomas E. McGowan was general chairman. Mrs. Florence Metcalf of Muscatine, Iowa, acted as judge, assisted by Mrs. Fred Williamson.

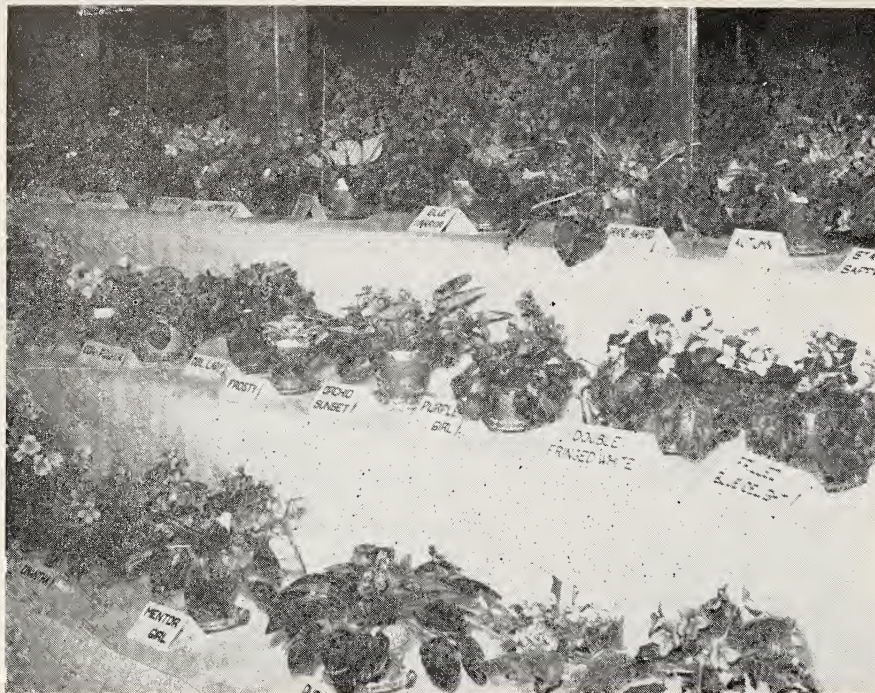
Ribbons were won by Mesdames Abe Lincoln, Thomas McGowan, Paul Rieke, Fred Williamson and Misses Pearl and Esther Derscheid.

Special tables included a table of all white African violets with a beautiful Madonna setting, by Mrs. Arthur Young, club president. Mrs. Fred Williamson presided at the information table dressed as a gypsy and with her crystal ball was able to tell people how to care for their Saint-paulias.

Focal point of the show was large club sign where arrangements using African violets with

The attractive tiered arrangement at the York, Pennsylvania show





A section of the plants on display in the Springfield, Massachusetts show

spring flowers were placed. The arrangements were created by Mrs. Paul Rieke of Van Horn, Iowa.

TWIN CITIES SHOW

Clubs affiliated with the Twin Cities African Violet Council at the time of their joining, take the name of a popular violet variety and at the show usually feature their violet name-sake -- just a few examples: Carmen Club carried out a Spanish theme in their arrangements -- Copper Girls displayed their plants in copper containers, while the Hiawatha Club had a birch-bark canoe centerpiece. There were many outstanding exhibits, each table the result of careful planning, and from the comments made by the viewers, the preparation time was well spent.

The counters stationed at the entrances recorded approximately thirty thousand visitors to the show. Out of town registrants, a total of nine hundred and forty-seven, represented thirteen states, India and Sweden. There were two hundred and sixty-one varieties of plants displayed by the clubs. Snow Prince proved to be the most popular, fifteen plants being displayed on various tables throughout the show. Red King, Azure Beauty and Painted Girl were next in popularity. The new double pink variety of the Tonkadale Greenhouses made its first public appearance and received much acclaim.

Mrs. Helen Haseltine and Mrs. Agnes Heschmeyer were co-chairmen and with the enthusiastic cooperation of each of the two hundred and fifty members made possible the success of the fourth annual show.

AKRON SHOW

The Greater Akron African Violet Society, of Akron, Ohio, held its annual exhibit of African

violets at the McNeil Company second floor auditorium on May 3 and 4, 1954.

Amateur members of the society exhibited violets in fifteen different classes.

The Queen of the Show was won by Mrs. W. G. White with her plant named Azure Beauty. Mrs. White also won sweepstakes of the show with the most points. Mrs. Chris Von Guten was a close second. She received special recognition from the judges for her exhibit of an episclia plant.

Several special exhibits, commercial exhibits and an exhibit by the African Violet Society of Akron helped to carry out the theme of the show which was "Say It With Violets."

LA VERNE SHOW

The Pomona African Violet Society held its first annual show in the Recreation Building, La Verne, California.

More than five hundred visitors from many southern California cities registered at the door. Mrs. Cecil Houdyshel brought one hundred labeled varieties and related plants which added much interest. Mrs. W. H. Rockey exhibited seedlings and demonstrated how African violets are propagated from seeds and leaf cuttings.

The visitors were the judges and voted Mrs. Rockey's Blue Boy, first; Mrs. Ray Mahoney's Painted Girl, second; and Mrs. Rockey's Gladys, third. A silver tea, plant sale and drawing for a vase, hand painted by Mrs. H. C. Mangels, made possible a show without an admission fee.

Officers of the club were responsible for the organization of the show. They were Mrs. Houdyshel, Mrs. Ralph Parker, Mrs. Alex Mueller, Mrs. June Lane, Mrs. Elsie Johnson, Mrs. Mildred Jochimsen, Mrs. H. C. Mangels and Mrs. S. W. Creswell.

MISSOURI VALLEY SHOW

The Missouri Valley African Violet Society of St. Joseph, Missouri, held its fifth annual show at the Y W C A on April 10 and 11, 1954. The show was built around a colorful Chinese setting with violets of many colors surrounding the Chinese house which was the point of interest. the Gold and Purple Ribbon Award violets and the best plant in the show were featured at one end of the room on large tables with green pleated tarleton skirts on the table.

Mrs. Leo Beck won sweepstakes and best plant in the show, the best plant being Red Waves. Mrs. W. A. Jenkins was the runner-up. The Gold and Purple Ribbon Awards were won by Miss Viola Coe and Mrs. W. A. Jenkins.

In addition to the regulation tables holding exhibits there were other classes of interest including miniatures, country cousins (episcias and gloxinias) arrangements, arrangements for special occasions, displays of potted plants for special places, children's division, and an educational table featuring seedlings and methods of propa-

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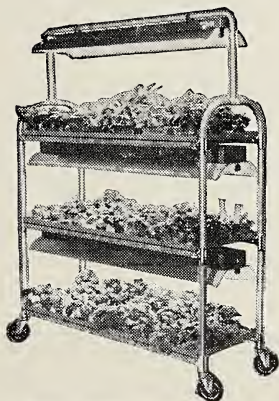
gation. A feature of the show was the soft sweet music played throughout the two days of the show by Mr. Elba Hogan of Barnard, Missouri.

Mrs. F. M. Richardson was general chairman of the show and Mrs. B. V. Garner is president of the club.

BUCKEYE LAKE SHOW

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Sunday afternoon, May 16, 1954. This was the first show by the Buckeye Lake African Violet Society of Buckeye Lake, Ohio. The society is two years old and has twelve members.

Two hundred plants representing one hundred and twenty different varieties made a beautiful display. The plants were arranged according to varieties and color.

A novelty table showing each step in the development of a violet from the seed pod to the blooming plant proved of much interest. One table held the different containers in which plants will grow and bloom. A center piece of violets using candles and the table of Bi-colors, Doubles, Lacy Girls and Ruffled Queens brought forth many Oh's and Ah's.

CLEVELAND OHIO

The Cleveland Saintpaulia Society and the Dubonnet Saintpaulia Society held their third African violet show on May 15 and 16, 1954, in the Cleveland Garden Center, Cleveland, Ohio, through the courtesy of Mr. Arnold Davis, director. Providence was very kind in arranging a pleasant week-end, consequently the attendance exceeded three thousand. The public interest displayed in the exhibits indicated that the clubs made many new friends.

The customary awards, consisting of blue, red, yellow and white ribbons were bestowed upon contributing members. Mrs. Henry A. Loesch was the winner of the Gold Ribbon given by the National Society for her entry of a collection of three registered named varieties; she was also the winner of the local society's award of Queen of the Show and sweepstakes.

The propagation table prepared by Mrs. John W. Held attracted much interest. This consisted of various leaf rooting mediums, seedlings, soil mixtures, fertilizers and literature on the culture of African violets.

Mrs. John J. Sinnott was show chairman and Mrs. John W. Held was co-chairman.

BALTIMORE MARYLAND

"Remember Mother" was the theme of the second annual show, given by the Baltimore African Violet Club of Baltimore, Maryland, on May 6 and 7, 1954. Featuring this theme, several unusual displays captured the interest of the violet public during the two days of the show. Mrs. Mae Hennels won the loving cup for the best arrangement, entitled "Mother's Garden," which was artfully original and beautifully executed. It consisted of twenty-four new and outstanding violets, all in full bloom, embedded in peat moss, with vines trailing over small rocks, and a fountain of running water in the center and electric lights, reflecting on the water spray. Something new and a beautiful sight to behold.

The show was attractively staged by Mrs. Elsie Creswell, president of our club and show chairman, assisted by Mrs. Bobbie Bartel and Mrs. Mae Hennels, while every member of the club had duties on her particular committee. The color scheme was that of the Baltimore Orioles, orange and black. All club and committee members were attired in orange "cobbler" aprons with violet motifs for trimming. Loving cups were awarded for first prizes, second, third and honorable mention being ribbons. There were eighteen competitive divisions and Mrs. Bartel won seven loving cups.

The table arrangement of Mrs. L. Walker, named "Violets in their Natural Habitat," won first place. The container was a round pewter dish, in which were wild geraniums, one jack-in-the-pulpit, English hyacinths, ferns and little deer coming down to the pool of water to drink, the violets growing underneath the fern.

Mrs. Dorothea Heimert's dark Azure Beauty won the triple ribbon, being the most outstanding plant, as well as receiving the cup in the doubles class. Her arrangement of "Mother's Chair" -- shawl, knitting, eye glasses and Bible also won a ribbon.

Sixteen members participated in the show, there being eight hundred and sixteen entries.

The stage setting was attractively arranged -- something new in the Maryland field. In the center of the stage was a large palette, holding quite a number of the latest violets from Fischer's. On either side of the palette could be seen arrangements in keeping with the show theme, and off to one side of the stage was another palette, only smaller, holding the latest plants available at this time from Behnke Nurseries. In front of and on each side of the stage were two very large basket-woven vases loaned to the club by a Baltimore florist, and these were filled with colorful azalea blooms. One beautiful sight, that stage setting. Visitors were enthusiastic in their praise over it as well as the manner in which the show was conducted.

BEATRICE SHOW

The Beatrice African Violet Society, of Beatrice, Nebraska, held its second annual African violet show in the city auditorium on April 10 and 11.

Over three hundred plants were on display representing two hundred and sixty-eight varieties. The theme of the show "The First Homestead" was in tribute to the National Monument located here.

Special scenes featuring African violets which attracted favorable comment were: a white Easter Altar, June Wedding, African Scene and April Showers.

Mrs. H. M. Souders was general show chairman with Mrs. F. W. Carstens co-chairman.

OHIO VALLEY SHOW

"A May Day of Violets" was the theme of the second annual show held by the Ohio Valley African Violet Society in the Craft Room of Oglebay Park in Wheeling, West Virginia, on May 1 and 2, 1954.

Queen of the Show award was won by Mrs. A. R. Bitzer, Jr. for her plant of Pink Cheer. Princess of the Show was won by Mrs. W. S. Bruhn for her plant of Minnetonka.

A special award was presented to Mrs. George Philabaum and Mrs. Sidney Fox for their staging of the "theme" which was a large table centered

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with a Maypole on which stood the master of ceremonies directing the dancers (dolls) which were surrounded by many new varieties of violets which were loaned by the Gardner Nursery and Greenhouse of Sherrard, West Virginia. The streamers from the Maypole to the dancers were pink and violet shades.

Sweepstakes winner was Mrs. A. R. Bitzer, Jr. with twelve blue ribbons. Mrs. John W. Cochran was second with eleven blue ribbons. The Purple Ribbon Award for the three best registered varieties was awarded to Mrs. John W. Cochran. Mrs. George Philabaum was show chairman, Mrs. Sidney Fox was staging chairman.

MILWAUKEE SHOW

The Milwaukee County African Violet Society held their third annual show in the Wauwatosa Recreational Building in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin on May 1 and 2, 1954. The theme of the show was the "Violet Treasure Chest." A huge treasure box filled with violets was used as a background for the hall.

There was an awards presentation Saturday morning after which the show was formally opened.

The center of the hall had a long table depicting how violets could be used in a market basket, in mother's corner of the house, in a children's playroom, a man's interest, a milliner's nook and various other hobbies where violets were shown.

Mrs. Joseph Hinton won the award for the most entries and the sweepstakes award as well as the popular vote award for her huge milliners hat box which was painted in pink and gold trimmed with a pink ribbon, a display which exactly matched a Mother's Day card placed beside the arrangement.

General show chairman was Mrs. Richard G. Birkholz.

HIGH POINT SHOW

Easter came early in High Point, North Carolina, this year. On April 3 and 4, the High Point African Violet Society sponsored their fifth annual show. Violets of all varieties, as well as colors, were put in the "Easter Parade" for the public to see and enjoy. The show was held in the office building of the High Point, Thomasville and Denton Railway Building.

The show was directed by Mrs. W. B. Davis, president, with Mrs. C. A. Daniels and Mrs. R. R. Blackburn serving as chairman and co-chairman.

A guest register was kept by the front door, where around fifteen hundred persons were welcomed by the president and show chairman.

On entering the reception hall, two large white bunnies pulling a cart loaded with violets,

made you realize you were joining the Easter parade. On one side of the hall was a scene dramatizing the origin of the fowl as they became a symbol of the Easter celebration in the 13th century. On the other side of the hall was a scene telling how the little brown bunnies and the colored eggs became associated with Easter.

Due to the many and spacious rooms in the building, each class of violets had a room of their own. These were set on tiered tables, covered with a white cloth. There were hostesses in each room to welcome the visitors.

On entering the room containing the "Queen for a Day" -- you really caught your breath to see the large blossoms that were on the violets. The tri-color award, a lovely White Snow Prince Supreme was queen, while her attendants were eight blue ribbon winners from the different classes. Mrs. H. F. Franks, of Elon College was the winner of the tri-color award, while Mrs. D. P. Whitley was the winner of the most points scored in the society.

The arrangements room was a lovely array of violets in many interesting and unusual planters, terrariums, antique containers, double arrangements, table decorations and violets in their natural settings. The "Calendar" was attractively displayed, with each month from January to December, set up in niches -- suitable for that season of the year. The "Four Seasons" -- spring, summer, fall and winter; "Time" -- morning, noon and night and "Life" -- infant, maturity and old age.

MUHLENBURG KENTUCKY

Nearly two hundred and twenty-five African violet fanciers from Central City and Greenville, Kentucky, and neighboring cities gathered for the African violet show sponsored by the First African Violet Society of Muhlenburg County, Kentucky. From members and non-members came more than one hundred and eight entries, representing over fifty varieties and three species. This was the society's first show since it was organized in October, 1953. Mrs. Joseph Burks is president of the society, and Mrs. W. C. Malone was general show chairman.

Beautiful posters announcing the show, at the Kentucky Utilities office May 8 from 10:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. were made and placed in several towns.

Members of the society were kept busy all through the day answering questions and seeing all had registered for the door prizes. Each visitor was given an invitation to the National Society and a cultural leaflet.

Plans are being made to hold a merit show in Central City this fall. Mrs. Joe Miller will be show chairman.

THE END



Calling all MEN

Phil Libby, 1508 Hamilton Ave., Racine Wis.

Hi there fellows:

Sorry I was unable to meet with many of you at the Convention, but things turned out that I was unable to attend.

Well the last issue certainly brought forth a lot of letters, but the wrong kind, the girls, God bless 'em, certainly gave me an ear full. Told me that -- well practically, told me that the men couldn't raise good violets. Mmmmm . . . Well, enough said. Guess we will just have to show them at the various shows that we can do a good job. However, there is one letter that I believe I should quote in part -- "Perhaps our group can clarify this question of why men won't join local clubs . . . Two points stand out immediately -- 1. That the majority of groups meet in the afternoon which eliminates most men. 2. That most women finding themselves alone among a large group of men, remain serene and poised, but most men in a reverse position go into a tail spin . . . Our group organized last September. In October we were approached by a number of business women to include a night group. Our board agreed to do so, provided enough local members could be interested. This project received plenty of publicity in the papers. Membership was open to men and we said so -- loud and clear -- I even called on the phone and invited two men in this town to attend the organization meeting -- not one man showed up -- so where do we go from there? They had the chance to come in on an equal basis but they didn't take it -- What's the reason?

Egotism? A woman's program wouldn't interest me?

Can't take Competition? Some woman's violets might be bigger or better?

Let's call it **CHALLENGING ALL MEN** -- Come on into your local groups or form night groups that are Affiliated. We would gladly welcome you and your ideas. There are loads of things you can do better than we. We're not too proud to admit it -- and we're not so dumb that we can't give you a hint or two either." Unquote. Thanks, Mrs. A. W. L. of New Jersey. Fellows think it over.

Here in Racine we have a club of some seventy-five members and five of those members are men. We all meet at night and get along

real well . . . I hope. There has been some talk about a night group in Milwaukee, where men could become full time members.

Now, the funny part of the whole thing, in the last issue, only a few letters from men . . . most of them say . . . "Why be a member? My wife is a member and she gets the Magazine, and since she pays her dues herself I save money." Well that is one aspect. However, most of the members I talk to want to be members in their own right.

In a letter from Otto Heeckt, 1223 H, Apt. 7, Lincoln, Nebraska, he writes, "I am a new member, and am working in as a horticulture foreman at Nebraska Agriculture College. Started with African violets last year and have had real good luck. Have a few dozen plants and about seventy leaves setting plants. Will probably always be crowded for room so decided to concentrate on whites. The thing is that I want to do some hybridizing. I don't want to do haphazard crossing and would like to save time by getting some information on dominance in African violets and genetics on colors, etc., to best know how to start. If you can give me some information on whom to contact for possible information, or if you know of a good technical book available I'd appreciate this information." Unquote. Who can help this fellow out? I know he would appreciate hearing from you.

No doubt I'll be busy with my new job as Registrar for the Society and I'm wondering if I could get someone to take over this column or at least help with it. Write me if you'll help.

THE END

NEW VARIETIES

We have recently returned from a buying trip and tour through several big wholesale greenhouses. And have brought back for you, the varieties that we found the most outstanding among the new introductions. We have these for sale in leaves, small plants and blooming plants. Also a limited supply of **WHITE PROMISE, OUR OWN INTRODUCTION.**

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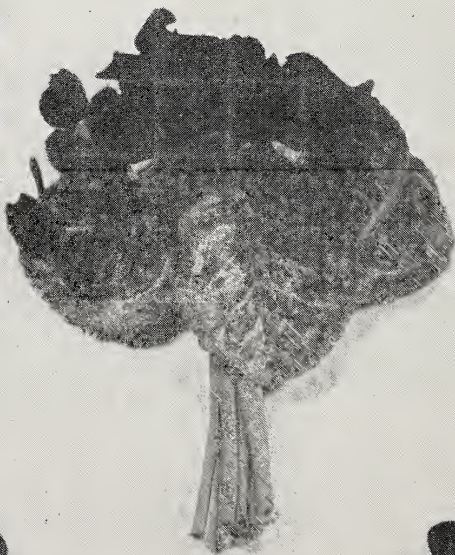
Rose Hahn, 301 Garden Ave., Knoxville 18, Tenn.

I want to thank each and every one who has sent in their entries for the "African Violet Idea Bench." This Society does certainly have talent -- and members with original ideas. Thinking along this line I would like to ask you for new ideas. Would so appreciate hearing from you, any suggestions as to materials and articles to use for future issues. In the meanwhile keep sending in the fine entries. I am thrilled and happy to welcome each one. Don't forget for December the subject is cookies, cakes, cards of any kind and can't you send me a good Christmas idea too?



An easy to do apron is this green chintz one. You will need $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards of a plain color chintz for the apron. The pocket and hem decoration was made from a violet figured chintz material. Only a small amount of the figured material is needed -- enough to make two complete bouquets. As shown in the photograph the violets are two shades of purple. Entered by Mrs. Henry Loesch, 17818 Riverside Drive, Lakewood, Ohio.

These ear rings were made from a small bunch of purple velvet violets, and a pair of unmounted ear rings, purchased from the dime store. Two violets were cut off the bunch, the stem trimmed off close to the flower and cemented to the unmounted ear ring with airplane cement. (Household Duco or nail polish can also be used.) The flower was held in contact with the ear ring until the cement had time to set up which took just a few minutes, then let stand for at least 24 hours until completely hard. This outfit gives a corsage and ear rings to match. Entered by Mrs. Ivan Cummins, 5006 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

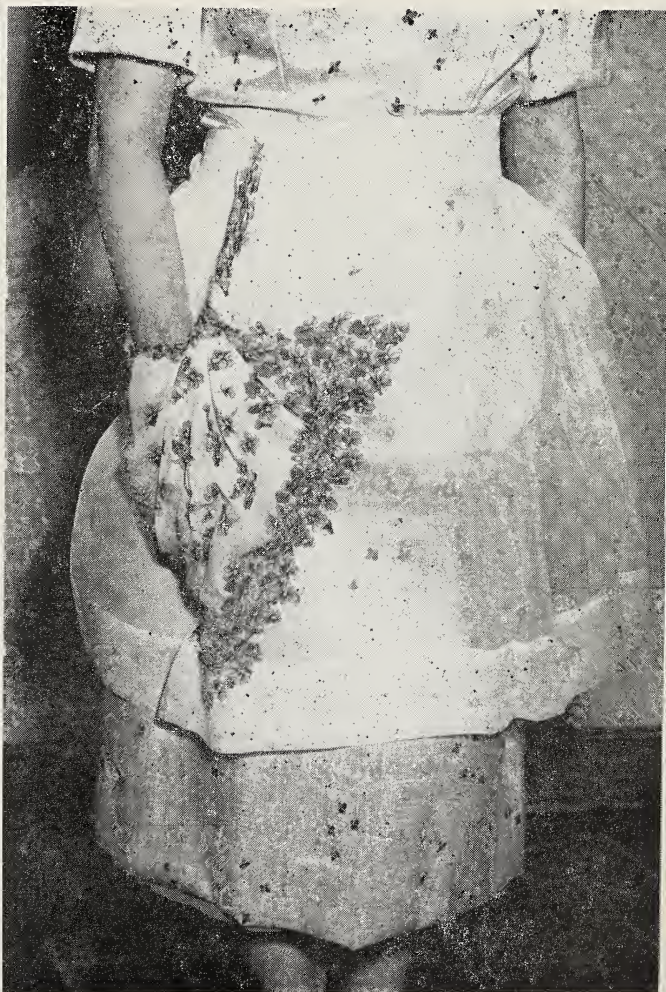


Violet ear rings and corsage entered by Mrs. Ivan Cummins, 5006 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.



This apron was made of black organdy, 36 inches wide. The ties and the waistband were cut from one end in the desired width. Fold double the rest and cut in a circle making the top the desired width to fit the waistband. The pocket was cut in the same shape as the apron, gathered a little at the top. The edges of the pocket and apron are finished in bias tape. Pleats are pressed in the apron. The flowers are crocheted of tatting thread and stiffened with clear nail polish, then tacked on the apron. The flowers can be washed by brushing them lightly with warm soapy water. Entered by Mrs. Raymond Enquist, Route 2, Overton, Nebraska.

Another attractive apron made with a handkerchief. Easy to do and ever so pretty. Made of white organdy, with the pocket designed from a violet handkerchief. The pocket was looped at the top and run through a piece of the apron material and buttoned at the top. This made it easier to iron. Cleaver plan! Entered by Mrs. R. A. Penrod, president of the County Belles African Violet Society, Chapter 9, 717 Eunice, Webster Groves, Missouri.





Mulford's Exhibit being admired



Naomis Violets, left a

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Ella Carter, Highlands, N. C.

The commercial exhibitors exceeded all the hopes and expectations with their lush displays at the Convention in St. Louis. The growers of African violets really hit the target in 1954.

Convention attending members of the African Violet Society were privileged to see the exhibits of thirteen commercial growers, six of whom were exhibiting for the first time.

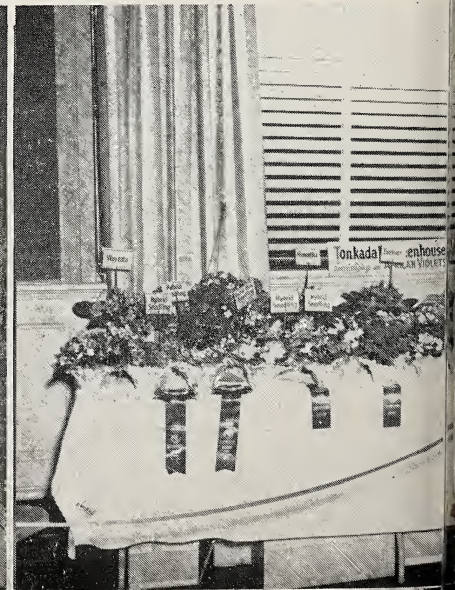
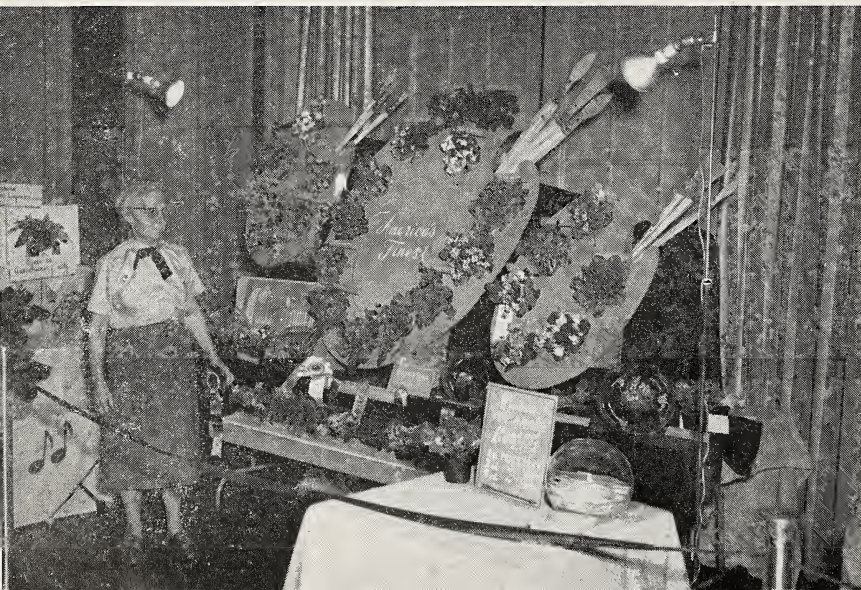
The big news was Double Pinks, not one but EIGHT; one by Fischers, two by Ulerys and five by Tonkadales Greenhouse who was exhibiting

for the first time. Great as the interest was in the Double Pinks, there was much else to hold the rapt attention of the viewers.

Lest we miss something important, suppose we enter the Chase Hotel in St. Louis and find our way to the Regency Room where the commercial exhibits have just been judged. To the far left of the room were six exhibitors while the other seven were on the right side. A center aisle housed the Amateur Show. A connecting hall led to the Adele Room where plants were sold.

Mrs. Landaker and Fischer's display

Mr. Anderson and





Richters Greenhouses, right



R. A. Brown & Sons display

An over-all view of the sight would have made anyone wonder how the judges decided on the winners. These able persons were: Mrs. Nelle Burst, Dayton, Ohio; Mrs. Constance Hanson, Lafayette, California, and Mrs. Pearle Turner, Akron, Ohio.

These capable judges had given Fischer Greenhouses of Linwood, New Jersey, the Blue Rosette for the best staged exhibit -- Class 3. Paul Rockelmann later received an Honorary Award, one year membership certificate, for the beauty, originality and quality of the exhibits he has brought to the Annual Meetings of the African Violet Society of America.

Granger Gardens of Wadsworth, Ohio, received the Red Rosette while Mulfords City Beautiful, Lebanon, Ohio, a new exhibitor, won the White Rosette.

Triple easels were the props used to make an effective and artistic display for Fischers. A full table size show case with fluorescent lights gave the Granger exhibit every advantage.

tonkadale Exhibit



Granger Gardens

Mulfords used multiple steps as an excellent means of grouping their many plants.

Turning to the subject of the best groups of plants, culturally speaking -- Class 2 the Blue Rosette was given to Tonkadale Greenhouse of Hopkins, Minnesota, another new exhibitor. The Red Rosette was given to Fischers and the White to Granger Gardens.

The next natural point of interest was that of seedlings. Class 4 was designated for the seedlings hybridized by exhibitor or released rights given him and not previously exhibited or judged. Tonkadale took the Blue Ribbon easily for Double Pink, Ulerys in a close second took the Red ribbon for their Double Pink while Fischers took the White ribbon for their Pink Fringette.

Class 5 was one for the best Sport or Mutant discovered by the exhibitor or persons connected with the business, not previously judged or exhibited. This Blue Ribbon went to Wintry Nite, a beautiful plant from the Ulery Greenhouses, Springfield, Ohio. The Red Ribbon went to Henry Ten Hagen, of Warsaw, New York, for his lovely



Mulford's Exhibit being admired



Naomis Violets, left and Richters Greenhouses, right



R. A. Brown & Sons display

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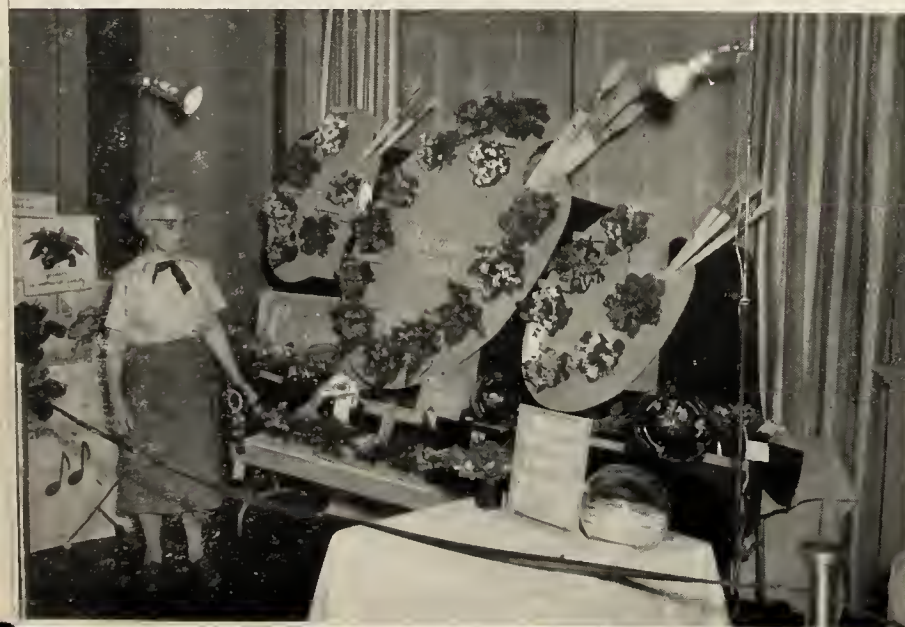
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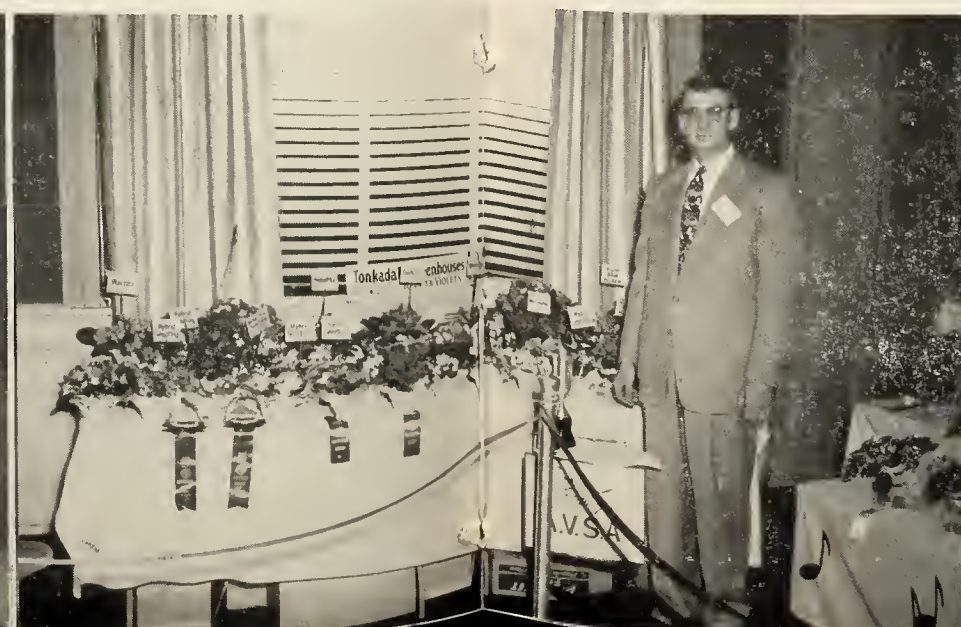
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Mrs. Landaker and Fischer's display



Mr. Anderson and Tonkdale Exhibit



Granger Gardens





John R. Gent Exhibit

plant called Show Empress. He also received the White for Show Pink.

Winners in Class 4 and 5 competed for the win in Class 6 -- the very, very best new plants. Tonkadale was an obvious winner of the Blue Rosette for their Double Pink as was Ulerly's for their Double Pink thereby receiving the Red Rosette. Fischer's received the White Rosette for their Pink Fringette.

Having noted the high spots covering Classes two through six, it is time to analyze each table giving the individual credit for winning plants in each exhibit more technically known as Class 1.

First, on the left side of the room, Fischer's display was scrutinized. Paul Rockelmann and his

pretty wife Margaret were in attendance. Focus was on the Double Pink and Pink Fringette justly adorned with Blue Ribbons. The Red Ribbon adorned Double White Surprise and Double Blue Fringette Supreme, jointly. The White Ribbon went to a plant called Pandora, a lovely pom pom type of lavender. Fischer's conducted a contest for the name of a large Double dark blue plant, the name of the winner to be announced later.

Granger Gardens, Inc. was second on the left. Mrs. Grace Eyerdorn staged and presented the exhibit by means of a plate glass show case with fluorescent lights covering the eight foot table. Outstanding and Blue Ribbon winners were Double Red Comet and Double Rose Queen. The Red Ribbon like the Blue was shared by two plants, namely, Young Bess and a seedling which was a fringed blue and white plant. The White Ribbon followed the pattern and was shared by Silver Token and Fantasette.

Ulerly Greenhouses, Inc. of Springfield, Ohio were third in line. Accompanying the exhibit was Paul Slough who pleased many old friends by bringing along Mrs. Slough and their two boys. The Ulerly Plants were their usual elegant quality. Best of Show in this exhibit was Wintry Nite, a very dark blue double on a very variegated interesting foliage and a Double Pink. Red Ribbon was awarded to a new double white as yet unnamed and to a Double Geneva as well. Chartreuse was an easy win for the White Ribbon. A second Double Pink was shown by Ulerly's, it was this plant which was used for a naming contest. It will be remembered that Ulerly's did this in 1953, the winner having been named Wintergreen. The 1954 contest was won by Mrs. W. A. Simmons, 204 N. 23 St., Omaha, Nebraska, for the name Pink Victory.

Next in line was the John R. Gent and Son, of Webster, New York, with son "Bill" in charge. A white armed plant stand held large lush plants of new Gent's Blue Cluster, this sat upon a table completely surrounded by many more plants of the same kind. Blue Cluster is lovely full double with Grotei-like foliage. Naturally the Blue, the



Ulerly Exhibit with Paul

Slough in attendance

Henry Ten Hagen explains to a group of members the merits of his new introductions



Red and the White Ribbons went to Gent's Blue Cluster.

J. A. Peterson & Sons of Cincinnati, Ohio, a firm known more intimately as "Henry's" was fifth in line on the left of the room. Henry had brought some excellent samples of the calibre plants he grows. He apparently refuses to stage an exhibit as such, being content to let his plants speak for themselves. Two plants were worthy of the Blue Ribbon: Star Amethyst and a Geneva Girl. The Red went to Mary Lee, while a Snow Prince Select took the White Ribbon.

Tinari Floral Gardens of Bethayres, Pennsylvania, was attended by Mrs. Ann Tinari. Regular Convention goers missed the rest of the family. Mrs. Tinari had arranged a charming table, having all the plants edged with pastel frills of net edging. It was no surprise to find the Blue Ribbon on Clementine. The Red Ribbon went to Sugar Plum Girl while the White went to Navy Bouquet.

Crossing the room, coming back up the right hand side of the room a new exhibitor. Griffen's Flowers of Hannibal, Missouri, had a table of fine plants as well as a tiered stand of interesting violets. Tops in this collection was Griffen's Mr. Big, a large dark blue on amazon foliage truly deserving of its Blue Ribbon. Second place, the Red Ribbon was attached to White Giant having huge blossoms and especially good foliage.

Adjoining Griffen's was another new exhibitor to the Convention, Mulford's of Lebanon, Ohio. The blue and white theme used was most attractive. The all white pots gave a simple elegance to the table of steps. Outstanding and the Blue Ribbon winners were: White Lustre, a double white having girl foliage, and Snow Fairy, a single white. Kings Crown, a double Geneva type with girl foliage won the Red Ribbon, while Wedding Veil, a double white, won the White

Ribbon. Mr. Marion Mulford and son Jimmy were with the exhibit.

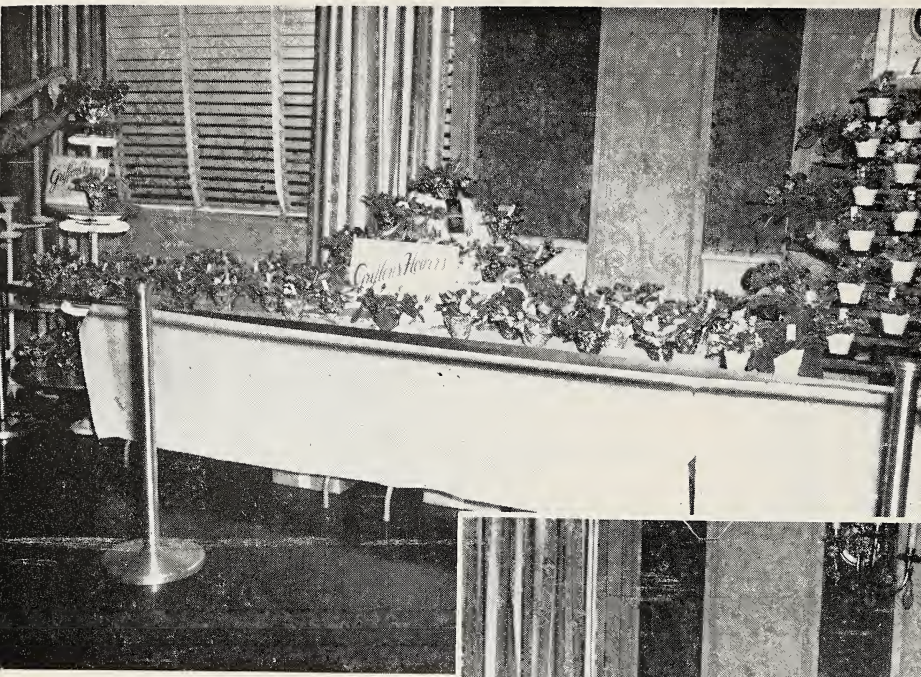
The R. A. Brown and Sons of Newnan, Georgia, came next with Mrs. Brown, her son Bobby and his wife who is a real Southern Belle in attendance. Apropos to their home, Brown's winner of the Blue Ribbon was Red Dogwood, Red Ribbon was won by Brown's Red Lucky Lady and Brown's Georgia Peach took the White Ribbon.

Naomi's African Violets of Brockton, New York, was brought to St. Louis by Mr. and Mrs. Weeks. This was an unusual display of albinos, featuring two varieties. Blue Ribbon went to Red Albino Girl and the Red Ribbon to the second albino Blue Albino Girl. Naomi's was the third new exhibitor to be viewed.

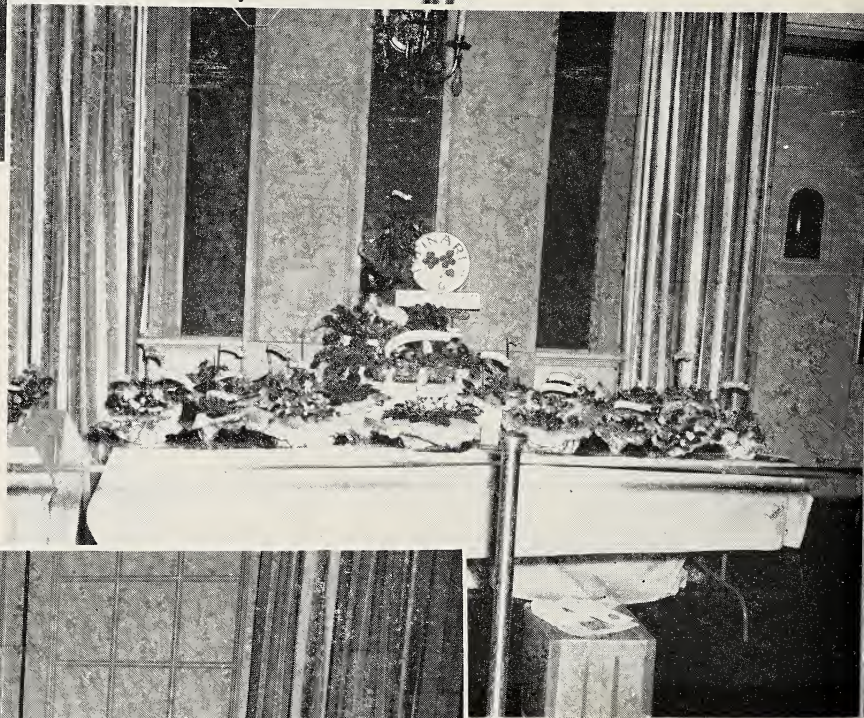
Richter's Greenhouse of Hammond, Indiana, the fourth new contributor to the Commercial Division, was presented by Mrs. Richter. A plant labelled Grenadier took the Blue Award, Calumet Beacon the Red Award and a very promising seedling labelled R.15 received the White Ribbon.

Henry Ten Hagen of Warsaw, New York, exhibiting his plants for the first time, was next in the procession of tables. Mr. Ten Hagen was joined by his very handsome mother. The many plants were paraded on three tiers of steps covered by a blanket of fluorescent lights. The Blue Ribbon was shared by two worthy contenders, Albino Redhead and Show Empress. The Red Ribbon went to Show Stopper, a nice blue and white variegated plant. The White Ribbon went to Snow Man which had especially large blooms.

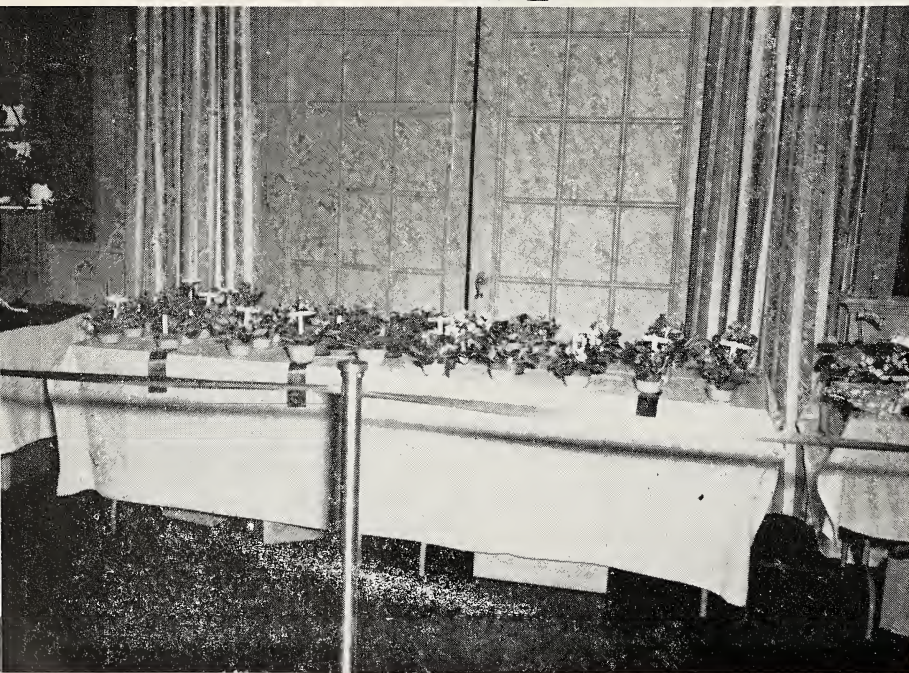
Last of the exhibitors but the Jack-Pot winner was Tonkadale Greenhouses of Hopkins, Minnesota. This grower was exhibiting for the first time. Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Anderson had a perfect right to be proud of their introduction to the Convention. Their plants were ex-



Griffen's Flowers Ex-
hibit



The Tinari Floral
Gardens display



J. A. Peterson and
Sons Exhibit

ceptionally lovely in every way that African violet lovers judge plants. Outstanding of five Doube Pink plants was the Blue Winner one. The writer is proud to announce that this beauty has since been christened and will be known hereafter as "Pink Achievement." A second Blue Ribbon was awarded to a purple fringed double. The Red Ribbon was found upon a hybrid seedling and a plant called Cobalt Blue Hi Loa. A rose colored seedling took the White Ribbon.

Tonkadale's raced off with Society's Commercial Silver Trophy the first year offered, for his superior exhibit. A resume reminds the reader that Pink Achievement won the Blue in Class 1, 2, 4, and 6. One and all offer their sincere congratulations to the Andersons for best double pink violet long awaited.

Speaking of congratulations, surely a standing vote of thanks is in order to Mrs. John Landaker, Priscilla to most, who as chairman of the Commercial Exhibit accomplished even more than was to be expected. A great deal is expected of her and she has always come through with a superior production over the previous year. All attending members of the National Show will admit she accomplished her mission, thus providing the Convention with exactly what they wanted to see, beautiful plants, new plants, outstanding new plants and lots of them. Thank you Mrs. Landaker for a difficult task well done.

Each and every member of the Convention is grateful to the growers who brought the masses of lovely specimens to St. Louis. The Exhibit and Sales Rooms were most popular spots. Delighted as folks are to hear the specialist discuss our favorite subject and to talk about them ourselves we all want to see what the big growers have done during the previous year.

What will 1955 produce for the pleasure of violet lovers? Be assured that Pittsburgh will provide thrills aplenty just as St. Louis lived up to all expectations.

"GIVE A NAME" CONTEST

Winners Announced

Prize winning names in the "Give-A-Name" Contest sponsored by Fischer Greenhouses at the N.A.V.S. Convention at St. Louis, April, 1954.

FIRST PRIZE — \$25.00 — REGENCY

Mrs. Jessie P. Setzler
1100 Springfield Ave.
Deerfield, Ill.

SECOND PRIZE — \$15.00 — MISSISSIPPI RIPLE

Mrs. Joe Schulz
3605 N. Audubon Dr.
Indianapolis, Ind.

THIRD PRIZE — \$10.00 — SPANISH LACE

J. W. Shaeffer, Jr.
202 Main St.
Reisterstown, Md.

THE END

BOYCE M. EDENS

Plant named in honor of Mr. Edens now available -- \$2.50 each. Include 50¢ for postage, extra charge for air mail and special delivery if desired.
PITTSBURGH SHOW — I am offering a \$25.00 Cash Award for the best Boyce M. Edens plant in the 1955 Show.

Leaves of Blush BiColor, Chieftain, Giant Orchid \$1.00 each.

NO ORDERS LESS THAN \$3.00

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Whether you intend to purchase or not, my Fall List, now ready, will be well worth the time it takes to mail a postcard from you to me.

JAMES R. GILLETTE

169 Washington Circle

LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS



Mrs. Layson and Mrs. Douglas



Mrs. Layson and Mrs. Pochurek



Mrs. Layson and Mrs. Nichols

AWARDS

for

1954

The Honorary and Convention Show Awards of the African Violet Society of America were presented at the Banquet session of the 1954 meeting.

HONORARY ANNUAL (1 year) MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES TO:

SAM CALDWELL, The Old Dirt Dobber, for his stimulating information on African violets on his Saturday morning broadcasts over W L A C, Nashville.

JOAN COPELAND, for her work in spreading African violet information and the dissemination of membership blanks of the Society which acquainted many Canadian members with the organization.

EVELYN HALL, Sacramento, California, for her outstanding efforts in bringing together people interested in the African violet in her part of the country in the early days of the Society.

BESS HARDY, for her newspaper articles and radio broadcasts which not only spread the culture of the African violet but have brought to a wide spread public news of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

HELEN POCHUREK, for her untiring efforts as Homing Pigeon editor, in keeping the Homing Pigeons in order and in flight for the Society and her council in behalf of better African violet shows.

EDITH MACKEY, for her untiring efforts in interesting many people in membership in the African Violet Society of America on the west coast.

MERLE HARDY, for her splendid talks on Saintpaulias and unstinted efforts for the Society in Canada.

IVA WOODS, for her friendly work in the management of the Homing Pigeon membership for the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

LUCILLE WRIGHT, for her faithful and prompt service in forwarding all communications that continue to come to the address of our beloved former treasurer, the late Boyce Edens.

EMILY HODAN, for her fine stories written for the African Violet Magazine and in addition for her acceptance of special story assignments.

EVAN PAUL ROBERTS, for his splendid articles which lend dignity and prestige to the African Violet Magazine.

LOIS MINEHAN, for the excellence of her stories she prepares for the Question Box Column of the African Violet Magazine.

PAUL ROCKELMANN, for the beauty, originality and quality of the exhibits he has brought to the Annual Meetings.

QUIXIE NICHOLS, for her contribution of fine photographs and records of the many pictures made of the Nashville meeting.

FLOWER GROWER MAGAZINE SILVER PLATE AWARD for Affiliated Chapter Leadership to: Mrs. William C. Douglas, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

BRONZE MEDAL CERTIFICATE TO:

WILLIAM C. BLAESING, chief horticulturist to the Chicago Park District for staging displays of the African violet at the Chicago Garfield Park and Lincoln Park Conservatories and making available to the public a sheet of cultural instructions. Also a brief history of the African violet and the formation of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE TO:

FERNE V. KELLAR, for her wise council and boundless interest in the formative work of the Society and for her continued contribution to the progress of the Society.

ANNA M. LAYSON, for her work in developing and promoting the Awards of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

AMATEUR SHOW AWARDS

GRAND PRIZE African Violet Society Silver Cup for best registered specimen to: Mrs. Chas. R. Stoehr, Greenwood, Indiana.
Name plant: Emperor Wilhelm

SECOND TO GRAND PRIZE or runner-up to Silver Cup: 12 bracket Plant Stand, Mr. Geo. W. Koch and Sons Award -- Mrs. L. H. Hotchkiss, Peoria, Illinois.

POPULAR GARDENING SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE to winner of most firsts in registered specimen classes 1 to 11. Sterling Silver Bowl to: Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Donelson, Tennessee.

BEHNKE'S GRAND SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE for most firsts for classes 1 through 21. First \$25.00, Mrs. E. L. Perdue. Second \$15.00, Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas. Third \$10.00 tied by Mrs. Stoehr and Mrs. Hotchkiss, \$5.00 each.



Mrs. Layson and Mrs. Kellar



Mrs. Layson and Mr. and Mrs. Rockelmann



Mrs. Layson and Mrs. Minehan



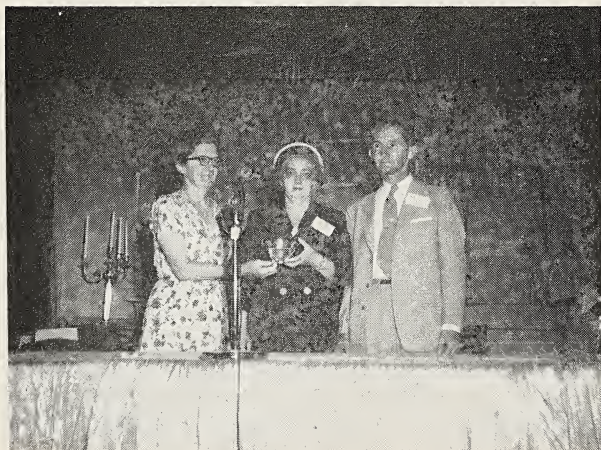
Mrs. Layson presents Award to Mrs. Pendleton



Mrs. Bush receives Award from Mrs. Layson



Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Stoehr. Mrs. Stoehr holds the Silver Cup -- Mr. Stoehr the prize winning plant, Emperor Wilhelm



Mrs. Layson, Mrs. Perdue, Mr. Perdue



Mrs. Layson presents bowl to Mrs. McIntosh



Mrs. Hotchkiss and Mrs. Anderson admire the outstanding specimen of Double Delight entered in the St. Louis Show by Mrs. Hotchkiss

ALMA WRIGHT CASH AWARD \$25.00 for best specimen "Alma Wright" to: Mrs. Ann Stutko, St. Louis.

MRS. SAM NICHOLS AWARD \$25.00 best specimen "Boyce M. Edens" Mrs. Nichol's introduction to: Mrs. E. L. Perdue.

GRANGER GARDENS AWARD \$25.00 for best specimen of their introduction "White Madonna" to: Mrs. J. R. Bush, Muncie, Kansas.

STIMUPLANT LABORATORIES PLAQUE and \$50.00 for best specimen of Show to: Mrs. Chas. R. Stoehr.

STIMUPLANT LABORATORIES PLAQUE and \$25.00 for best specimen plant Dark Blue or Purple -- Class 1 to: Mrs. Chas. R. Stoehr.

STIMUPLANT LABORATORIES PLAQUE and \$25.00 for best specimen plant Red -- Class 4 to: Mrs. J. R. Bush.

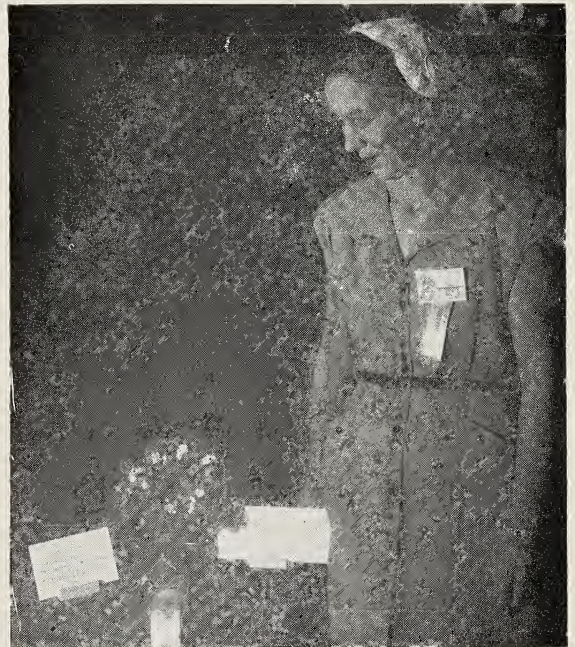
STIMUPLANT LABORATORIES PLAQUE and \$25.00 for best specimen plant White -- Class 9 to: Mrs. Geo. F. Pendleton, Kansas City, Missouri.

TUBE CRAFT FLORAL CART AWARD won by Mrs. E. L. Perdue.

SILVER BOWL awarded by First Saintpaulia Society of Nashville for the most outstanding seedling to: Mrs. Geo. McIntosh.

TINARI FLORAL GARDENS AWARD \$25.00 best specimen of "Clementine" to: Mrs. E. L. Perdue.

SILVER TROPHY awarded by African Violet Society of America, Inc., 1954 for the



Mrs. Stutko and award plant

BEST COMMERCIAL EXHIBIT — First year winner: Mr. R. G. Anderson, Tonkadale Greenhouse, Hopkins, Minnesota.

(Exhibitor is to be a three times winner of commercial cup to become the permanent possessor.)

THE END



Mrs. Layson presents Silver Trophy to Mr. Anderson, Tonkadale Greenhouses

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2 Quarts \$1.00 Postpaid

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Walnut Creek, Calif.

NOTICE OF AWARDS

Pittsburgh Meeting

Anna Layson, Awards Chairman

(Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky)

**FLOWER GROWER STERLING SILVER
PLATE AWARD for Affiliated Chapter
Leadership**

1. This award to be given to any individual member of an Affiliated Chapter for outstanding leadership in promoting all phases of the Chapter's activities in accordance with the objectives of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.
2. The Affiliated Chapter secretary shall submit to the Chairman of Awards, the candidate's name and address and list of accomplishments not later than January 1, 1955.

THE END

TINARI AWARD

Tinari Floral Gardens Award of fifty dollars to be placed on the following Tinari introductions:

Ten dollars on each of the best Clementine, Pink Luster, Navy Bouquet, America and Sugar Plum Girl.

LORD & BURNHAM AWARD

Lord and Burnham Greenhouse Award: Twenty-five dollars for Best AMATEUR GREENHOUSE GROWN named variety African violet at 1955 Convention Show.

THE END

Buyer's Guide

Your Buyer's Guide Committee is making its first report. The purpose of the Guide is to grow and value the merits of any violet, to list those that are distinctively different and worthy, to help eliminate duplicate names for plants and duplicate plants under different names by giving you a list of duplications and similarities.

The Guide members plan to give you their twenty-five favorite varieties in the December issue of the Magazine. Plans are also in the making for each of you to be one of a Round the World Committee to list your favorites from which will be chosen the One Hundred most popular varieties.

The original committee members were:

Chairman, Mrs. E. G. Magill, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, Mrs. Sam Nichols, Mrs. Robert Montgomery. Secretary, Mrs. D. E. Cabbage.

The present committee is:

Chairman, Quixie Nichols, Elinor Rodda, Mildred Held, Helen Montgomery. Secretary, Sara Cabbage.

The list of **DUPLICATE NAMES** may carry the names of plants which are very similar but are not necessarily an exact duplicate.

There are **Supremes** of most all existing varieties. **Supremes** therefore are not listed.

ALL AGLOW (Behnke) Deep pink, cupped bloom with a red eye, forest green girl foliage with deep rose undercoating -- considered a semi-miniature.

ALMA WRIGHT (Fischer's) Considered a semi-miniature, small light green leaves with a profusion of double white blooms, grows very compact.

AMETHYST (Armacost & Royston) Quilted, heart shaped leaves, flushed wine underneath -- profusion of lavender blossoms in clusters.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Orchid Lady, Zig, Brown's Orchid Beauty, Pink Amethyst, Light Orchid, Ulery's Lavender Lady.

AZURE BEAUTY (Ulery's) Double bright blue and white blooms in clusters on deep green, quilted foliage. Not always true to color as they are sometimes all blue.

DUPLICATE NAME — Fluffy Double.

BABY GIRL SPOON (Kellar) A real miniature, small round girl leaves and a nice size blue-purple blossom shade of Mentor Boy. Shy bloomer.

BI-COLOR A real two-toned variety. The plum colored tips on the two upper petals are a beautiful contrast to the pale orchid coloring of the rest of the bloom; medium green, slightly quilted foliage.

DUPLICATE NAME — Red Bi-Color.

BLUE BOY (Armacost & Royston) Good grower and bloomer, violet-purple flowers, with medium green foliage.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Blue Boy Improved, Blue Boy Profuse, Blue Barbara, Blue Darling, Purple Shadows, Emerald, Gypsy Boy.

BLUE BUTTERCUP (Fischer's) Rounded bloom of medium light blue color. Foliage has rather pointed serrated edges.

BLUE DEE Deep bronzy green, wine red backed, quilted foliage, compact grower and never gets leggy, clusters of bright blue blooms in profusion.

BLUE DELIGHT (Ulery's) Medium green, slightly quilted foliage, nice bright blue and white blossom.

BLUE EYES (Tinari) Soft baby blue, round petal blossoms, a shade deeper in the center. Dark, glossy, deep green leaves.

BLUE GIRL (Ulery's) Dark green girl foliage, blue violet bloom almost shade of Blue Boy.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Blue Bonnet, Blue Belle, Light Blue Girl, Bronze.

BLUE HEIRESS (Ulery's) Good duPont girl foliage, with a larger bright blue bloom, color deeper in center of flower.

BLUE VELVET Deep blue blossom with deep bronzy green foliage with wine color undersides.

BLUE WARRIOR (McFarland) Glossy green, narrow leaves, wine red undersides, with a profusion of medium blue blooms on short stems.

BLUE WONDER (Ulery's) Large flower of white overlaid with a deep bright blue. Good bloomer. Foliage deep green, slightly quilted.

BLUSHING MAIDEN Foliage pale green. Blossoms are white overlaid with blush pink.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Blush, Blush Beauty, Blushing Beauty, Blushing Lady, Maiden's Blush, Blushing Bride.

BOYCE EDENS (Quixie Nichols) Huge bi-color, full, large bloom. Deep orchid purple top petals contrast beautifully with the pale orchid lower petals. The two side petals are usually tipped in the darker color. Deep bronzy green, quilted foliage. Compact grower with good light.

BRIDAL WREATH (Brown's) Medium green foliage. Medium light blue blooms with good white edge.

CHRISTMAS STAR (Fischer's) Light green, fringette foliage. White fringed blossom overlaid with blue.

CALIFORNIA DARK PLUM (Wilcox Nurseries) Darkest red bloom. Glossy green, quilted foliage.

CINDERELLA (Fischer's) Semi-girl type foliage. Fringed, cupped white blossom overlaid with blue.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Maroon, California Red, Cherokee, California Velvet, Dark Plum, Plum Glory, Wine Velvet, California Maroon, La Jolla Plum.

CONFEDERATE GREY (Brown's) Pale grey blue bloom. Light green foliage.

CORSAGE (Ulery's) Medium green foliage. Light blue, double bloom. The lightest blue double to date.

CRINKLES (Tinari) Heavily quilted, green leaf with a medium to dark blue blossom. Mature leaf very dark with wine red back.

DOUBLE BLUE DELIGHT (Ulery's) Huge grower. Glossy green foliage, flowers solid, medium light blue.

DOUBLE MARGARET (Fischer's) Dark double purple flower. Wavy frilled leaf.

DOUBLE NEPTUNE (Ulery's) Neptune foliage, glossy, bronzy green, with a good dark blue double bloom.

DUPLICATE NAME — Queen Neptune.

DOUBLE ORCHID NEPTUNE (Ulery's) Neptune foliage with a nice double orchid bloom.

DUPLICATE NAME — Royal Scot.

DOUBLE ORCHID SUNSET (Ulery's) Nice green, slightly quilted foliage with a large double, deep orchid bloom.

DOUBLE ROSE (Ulery's) Quilted, medium green foliage with a rosy pink and white double bloom. Does not always come true, sometimes going solid orchid in color.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Double Rose Rainbow, Rosetta.

WHITE MADONNA (Granger Gardens) Large double and semi-double blooms on dark green, girl type foliage.

DOUBLE SAILORS DELIGHT (Ulery's) Nice medium, light blue bloom on good, glossy, deep green foliage. Sometimes has a tendency to bloom semi-double or even single.

DOUBLE SEA GIRL (Ulery's) Same as above with a darker, blue purple bloom on dark green girl foliage.

DUPLICATE NAME — Double Lady.

DUPONT APPLE BLOSSOM (Ulery's) Good medium size dupont foliage, with a large white bloom with pink eye about apple blossom shade.

DUPONT BLUE (Mrs. W. K. duPont) Large, medium quilted, duPont foliage with a large, vivid, deep blue bloom.

DUPONT SUPREME (John Good) Sometimes called No. 4. Huge, heavily quilted leaf with a huge, blue bloom, lighter in color than No. 2.

DUPONT RED Medium size, green quilted, duPont leaf with a large, red orchid bloom.

DUPLICATE NAME — Congo Queen.

DUPONT LAVENDER PINK (Mrs. W. K. Dupont) Nice duPont foliage with a large, slightly bi-color orchid bloom.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Tu-Tone Amazon, Bi-Color Amazon, duPont Pink, TuTone duPont, Bi-Color Supreme.

ECLIPSE (Ulery's) Dark, glossy green, quilted foliage with a bright blue bloom, edged heavily with white on two upper petals and not quite so heavily on lower petals. Sometimes goes all blue but may come back true at next blooming.

EMPEROR WILHELM (Pyle) Blue purple bloom, beautiful girl foliage.

EVENING SUNSET (Ulery's) Small, compact, dark bronzy green, wine backed foliage. Medium blue blossom with pink overlay on two top petals.

FANTASY (Behnke) Medium, glossy green foliage, lavender pink bloom splashed, rayed and dotted with blue. Sometimes goes all blue.

DUPLICATE NAME — Freckles.

FORGET-ME-NOT (Hanson) Lovely light blue bloom on nicely quilted, medium green foliage.

FRIEDA Leaves are dark green, glossy and slightly quilted. Back of leaves are dark red. Small velvety red orchid blooms.

DUPLICATE NAME — Red Ionantha.

FRILLED BLUE DELIGHT (Ulery's) Frilled wavy foliage with a nice deep blue and white bloom, darker than Blue Delight.

FRINGED DOUBLE WHITE (Ulery's) White double with a touch of orchid on blooms, some may even have a solid orchid bloom. Foliage light green, fringed and wavy.

GENEVA BEAUTY (Ulery's) Good, slightly quilted, green foliage. Blossoms are a deep blue with a good white line around the outer edge of petals. An improved Geneva.

GORGEOUS (Baxter) The plant is large and upright. The leaves are very much spooned with tops deep green, and undersides are either pale green or flushed wine according to light and soil condition. Medium size bi-color orchid bloom.

DUPLICATE NAME — Grand Lady.

GORGEOUS BI-COLOR (Ulery's) Real lavender bi-color. Two top petals very deep lavender. Bottom petals soft lavender tone. Medium green quilted leaf.

GYPSY APPLE BLOSSOM (Baxter) Misty pink flowers in profusion about the color of duPont Lavender Pink, medium green, slightly quilted foliage.

GYPSY CROWN (Baxter) Deep lavender, decidedly bi-color bloom on good, deep green, quilted foliage.

HARDEE BLUE Spooned green foliage with a medium blue bloom.

HOLLY (Kellar) Waxy leaf with crenated edge, black green and very dark red underneath. Medium blue flower like Ruffles. Outstanding foliage.

INDIANOLA (Ulery's) Very dark, bronzy red backed, green foliage with bi-color blooms.

INNOCENCE (Ulery's) Deep, bronzy green foliage with wine red undersides and medium size white bloom.

IONANTHA (Original species brought into cultivation.) Grows huge, long petioles. Leaves dark green sometimes flushed wine. Flowers produce freely and are a blue lavender in color.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Ionantha Improved, Ionantha Grandiflora, Grandiflora, Blue Flame, Blue Trilley, Rhodes No. 1, Clemo, Alice Blue Gown, Blue Violet, Blue Amethyst, Blue Trilby, Amarantha, Mary Lou.

ISON (J. A. Thomas) Deep green, quilted foliage. Good grower. Bright, light blue bloom.

KAY'S QUILTED Glossy, deep green, heavily quilted foliage. Large growing plant. Small light to medium blue bloom. Foliage more outstanding than bloom.

LAVENDER BEAUTY (Ulery's) Huge, rounded, pale lavender blooms on good, deep, quilted, green foliage.

DUPLICATE NAME — Low Cluster Lavender.

LAVENDER PINK PRINCESS (Ulery's) Deep green, upright foliage with lots of blooms and an odd shade of lavender blossom.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Orchid Champion, Sun-set Lane.

LILAC LADY (Mary Parker) Semi-miniature with deep green foliage and lovely small lavender blooms. Sport of Amethyst.

LOW CLUSTER BLUE (Merkel) Dark green, pointed leaves with lots of clusters of deep blue blooms in center of plant.

MARINE (Harris) DuPont or supreme leaves of dark green, very quilted and hairy foliage. Large, medium blue blooms.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Mrs. Boles, Mrs. Bowles.

MENTOR BOY (Merkle) Large leaves of medium green, slightly hairy, slightly quilted with a very nice size, reddish purple bloom in clusters above the foliage. Two upper petals are long in comparison to most blooms.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Purple Mist, Red Wing, Coleman's Second Prize.

MOIRE BUTTERFLY (Brown's) Deep green, quilted foliage, profusion of light blue blossoms splashed darker blue.

MULBERRY GIRL (Kellar) Nice, deep green girl foliage with a large bi-color, deep orchid bloom.

NAVY BOUQUET (Tinari) Nice green, quilted foliage. Double, very dark navy purple color blooms.

NEPTUNE (Armacost & Royston) Very dark green, glossy leaves, flushed wine underneath. Quite round flowers of nice size of deep lavender -- orchid color, grow close to foliage.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Neptune Improved, Lady Marion, Spoon Neptune, Mary, Lorene, Agate, Persian, Bronze Spoon Neptune.

NORSEMAN (Armacost & Royston) Quilted, medium green foliage with deep blue flowers in clusters.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Norseman Improved, Ozark Skies, Norseman True Blue, Reish.

NUMBER 32 (Armacost & Royston) Grows in a flat rosette. The medium green, glossy, quilted leaf is light, troughed and tinged red on back. Flowers are of an unusual shade of blue orchid, lighter in color than Neptune's.

ORCHID BEAUTY (Armacost & Royston) Medium size blooms in clusters produced very freely, color red orchid.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Trilby, Rosy Blue, Mary Wac, Lavender Lady, Pink Purple, Lavender Red Dilly, Good's Orchid, Carter's Red, Vivid, Vivid Plum, Plum Pink, Garnet, Orchid Queen, Orchid Lady, Orchid Red, Southern Orchid, Orchid Beauty.

ORCHID GIRL Sport of Ulery's Blue Girl. Deep green, girl foliage, large flowers of red orchid color are produced very freely well above foliage.

PAINTED GIRL A gorgeous blossom when it comes true to name. Highly variable, the white blossoms are heavily edged with reddish orchid. Attractive girl type foliage.

PINK BEAUTY (Holton & Hunkle) First pink introduced. Large blossom, medium green foliage.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Pink Improved, Pink Perfection, Pink Lady, Pink Star, Canada Pink, Pink Maiden, Rosie O' Grady, Evelyn Banks, Eleanor's Pink, Pink Lillian.

PINK CHEER (Gent) Deep pink blossom on dark green, quilted, slender leaves that are red backed. Bloom petals are slender.

PINK DELIGHT (Ulery's) Foliage as dark as Holly with red-wine backs. Pale pink bloom.

PINK DOLL MINIATURE Pink flower, plain foliage.

PINK GIRL (R. G. Baxter) Pink, cupped blossom, girl foliage.

PINK WONDER (Ulery's) Large, rounded, medium green foliage growing rather compact, with lots of large, pink blossoms with deeper color centers.

"NOBODY LOVES A *african* SHRINKING A VIOLET"

You'll never know how beautiful your Saintpaulias can be until you give them the absolute protection they need against insects. Impossible, you say?



Not at all. But there is a danger that by the time you discover these minute, insidious pests the leaves may curl, small white cotton masses appear, plants shrivel and blooms stop. And "nobody loves a shrinking violet"—*not even a shrinking African Violet!* But the symptoms and hideous results often are easier to detect than the causes themselves.

For instance, mealy bugs are but a small fraction of an inch long. And the devastating cyclamen mite and broad mite are invisible to the naked eye! They frequent the junction between the stalk and leaf—and feed on the underside of the leaf. Fortunately, they can be easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray—the special "ogen" insecticide that is so popular with both professional and amateur African Violet growers alike. As it is an ovicide, Marvel Spray penetrates the waxy shells of these persistent enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send \$1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Manufacturing Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose GROW-ers"). 5614-94 Ogen Building, Beacon, New York.

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Contact your Farm Bureau or State Agricultural Department for sources of ANY KIND Phosphate and Potash ground rock to use as in Nature's Way." Write me enclosing stamped, addressed envelope if unsuccessful. Thanks for all your nice letters.

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123 25th St., N.W.

Barberton, Ohio

PANSY BEAUTY (Ulery's) Rather small growing plant with deep green, quilted foliage. Small blossoms in great profusion are bi-color with darker, red-orchid color on the tips of the petals.

PASTEL GIRL (Mary Parker) Modified girl foliage, profusion of medium, small lavender blooms.

PERIWINKLE Medium green, slightly quilted foliage, blue lavender blossom with white eye.

PLUM SATIN (Tinari) Deep green foliage with a red orchid bloom.

DUPLICATE NAME — Mauve.

PURPLE KNIGHT (Ulery's) Dark, bronzy green, slightly quilted, troughed foliage. Lots of large blossoms above foliage which is red-wine backed.

PURPLE PRINCESS (Granger Gardens) Dark green, quilted, semi-girl type foliage. Large, deep purple blossom.

QUEEN BETTY (Ulery's) Upright grower, with medium dark green foliage. Blossoms are creamy white with two top petals blush pink.

RED KING (Ulery's) Round, deep wine red blooms. Dark green, red-wine backed foliage, upright grower.

REDLAND (Peterson) Quilted, heart shaped leaves with a profusion of deep, rose red flowers.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Red Amethyst, Red Lark.

ROSALIE (Yoars) Wavy, medium dark green foliage, medium sized, reddish orchid blossoms.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Red Waves, Miss West Virginia, Heart's Desire.

ROSE CRINKLES (Tinari) Heavily quilted, green leaf with a rosy orchid bloom. Mature leaf very dark with wine red back.

ROSE PURPLE Dark green, slightly troughed, red backed, quilted foliage. Good size medium blue bloom.

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RUBY GIRL (Ulery's) Nice, lacy girl type foliage, upright grower. Blossoms similar to Pansy Beauty. Blush orchid color with dark, wine-red tips on petals.

RUFFLED BEAUTY (Ulery's) Unusual girl foliage deeply notched. White zone at axil of leaf often flushed wine-red. Blooms are a deep red-orchid in color. (Semi-miniature.)

SAILOR BOY (Armacost & Royston) Heart shaped, deep green foliage with a profusion of medium, light blue blooms.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Alma's Blue, Mermaid, Amethyst Blue, Sunset Glow.

SAILOR GIRL (Ulery's) Light blue flower, shade of Blue Eyes. Lovely, light green, girl foliage.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Light Blue Girl, Blue Eyed Girl, Pied Piper.

SILHOUETTE (Fischer's) Deep green, wavy foliage. Large, deep purple blossom, slightly fringed, top petals bordered with faint white edge.

SILVER LINING (Fischer's) Bright, light blue double flowers, each petal edged with white. Medium green, slightly quilted foliage.

SNOW LINE (Fischer's) Red lavender, double flowers each petal edged in white, medium green foliage.

SNOW PRINCE (Ulery's) Huge, snow white blossom on medium green, slightly quilted foliage.

STAR AMETHYST (Craig) Medium light green foliage. Large amethyst, star shaped bloom.

STAR SAPPHIRE (Craig) A huge, five pointed star, purple in color on medium green foliage. Multiple stamens.

SUNRISE (Ulery's) Heavily quilted, deep green foliage. Large clusters of deep orchid bi-color blooms.

SWEET PEA GIRL (Kehl) Nice girl foliage. Sweet pea type, orchid bi-color bloom.

TEAR DROP (Fischer's) A real miniature with green, slightly quilted foliage and small light blue, double blossoms.

VIKING (Armacost & Royston) Dark green, quilted leaf with wine-red back. Medium size, deep purple flower.

DUPLICATE NAMES — Royal Sunset, Amethyst Purple, Storm King, Supreme.

VIOLET BEAUTY A shade that is different, as it is a true violet hue with deeper top petals and medium green foliage.

WHITE MADONNA (Granger Gardens) Large double and semi-double blooms on dark green, girl type foliage.

SPECIES

Saintpaulia amaniensis
Saintpaulia goetzeana

Saintpaulia ionantha
Saintpaulia orbicularis
Saintpaulia tongwensis
Saintpaulia diplotricha
Saintpaulia grotei
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Saintpaulia pusilla

THE END

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Keep your violets healthy and more beautiful by protecting them from pot rim damage. Our protection strip gives perfect results.

Easily applied and remains in place. Comes in coiled rolls. Fits any size pot. Send 50¢ for sufficient amount to equip eight three inch pots.

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(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Pigeons:

What a fine Convention it was and what wonderful memories all of us who attended will have of "April in St. Louis."

I enjoyed meeting so many of you, whom I had previously known only through your letters. Many of you asked how to join a Pigeon unit. Just send an introductory letter to our Homing Pigeon membership manager. With this issue, I'd like to welcome my new co-worker, Edna Jones of Beaumont, Texas. She will place you in a unit or if you care to direct a Pigeon, she will welcome you too.

Don't forget the hints, I need them to make this an interesting column. I'd like to thank all of you who have sent me hints, even though you don't belong to a Pigeon unit. I appreciate every one of them.

Your Hint Hunter,
Helen Pochurek

I use two tablespoons of two per cent sodium selenate to one bushel of soil. This takes care of all pests.

When re-potting plants or those with long gangly necks, remove one entire row of leaves. New roots will form easily at this spot.

Mrs. L. P. Hotchkiss, Peoria, Ill.

Take this for what it is worth -- I have not tried it as yet, but intend to. In a recent publication of the Popular Gardening Magazine an article on new experiments in the gardening world told of using one teaspoon of borax to one



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road
Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

gallon of water to increase the size of bloom on daffodills and pansies. Remarkable results were obtained. What effect would it have on violets?

Your Editor, Helen Pochurek

Doesn't this sound pretty? An all pink window -- that is -- a glass shelf with all pink African violets -- in different varieties. Also -- plan another using pink and light blue violets alternately on a shelf.

Tobacco cloth in two thicknesses, strung on wires on the outside of your windows to regulate the light and sun. This has been used before, but is for the benefit of our many newer members.

Anna Layson, Maysville, Ky.

I use the heavy kind of hairpins to pin leaves in position, both when starting leaves and for older plants.

A splint for broken violet leaves, especially the duPonts and Supremes. Lay two toothpicks across break, on underside of leaf. Over this, put a piece of adhesive tape. This must be done while break is fresh and break may be set together easily. It will be about a month before tape can be removed. I have a Ruffled Queen wearing a 'splint' right now.

A steel crochet hook is best for removing suckers from plants.

Mrs. Everette Olsen, Elroy, Wisc.

Foil on shelves and tables reflects light to plants as well as brings out the beauty of your plants.

My favorite way of starting seed is to grind fine some Magic Mix or Black Magic. Wet thoroughly and pat down lightly in pan that can be covered. Sprinkle seed on top and cover till germination starts, then put under lights, about five inches from bulb. They grow well in this without the addition of fertilizer. When necessary to water, I drop water along side of dish with an eye dropper.

Iva Moore, Ft. Dodge, Iowa

I make labels out of tin cans, after cutting off top and bottom. Flatten out and cut into strips that are one-half inch at top and one-eighth inch on bottom. Be sure to get pieces smooth with a file or coarse sandpaper. Write name on one side of label with India ink. Label can be stuck in pot and bent over side, so name can be read very easily.

Mrs. O. Close, Ludington, Mich.

THE END



EDNA P. JONES

3560 French Rd.

Beaumont, Texas

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

Those of us who were able to attend the Convention in St. Louis, have come home thrilled with the wonderful spectacle. We remember the hospitality of a friendly city, the beautiful Show, and our hopes are high that we can return again next spring to attend the one being planned in Pittsburgh.

When you read this it will be September, and the familiar name Iva Woods, who has headed your column will no longer be there. I do hope you will all feel at liberty to write me at any time and present any problems you may have. I can't promise to solve all problems but will do the best we can, so do not hesitate to write us.

We will be interested in starting new Pigeons, just as Mrs. Woods has suggested so many times. Those of you interested in joining a Pigeon please write me and send along an introductory letter and we will assign you to a new group as soon as possible. Bear in mind that the swifter your Pigeon flies the more interest you will have in whatever has been written, so do hurry them along.

Remember your News Editor, Helen Pochurek and include hints in your letters so that she can pass them along to the others and give them the benefit of your experience.

Sincerely,
Edna P. Jones

THE END

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Ada Magill—large pure white double flowers, buds greenish yellow. Heavy foliage. Plants \$2.50, leaves 50¢ each.

Wintry Nite—foliage like Frosty, flowers double dark blue. Plants \$2.50, leaves 50¢ each.

Iowa—Large dark wavy foliage. Medium blue flowers. Heavy bloomer. A show plant. Plants \$2.00, leaves 50¢.

Double Inspiration—Large double true violet shade. Very showy, good foliage. Plants \$2.00, leaves 50¢ each.

Many other varieties. — Write for list.
Add 75¢ for packing and postage on all orders under \$10.00.

Plan to visit me. Directions to find me: North edge of town on U.S. Highway No. 11.



3-TIER ALUMINUM VIOLET STAND

Here is a new kind of plant stand that rolls on noiseless plastic wheels from window to window or into the kitchen for watering! Unbelievably light in weight, sturdy, can't rust or tarnish. Use it indoors, outdoors or on the porch or terrace. African Violets, Gloxinias, all potted plants flourish on this stand because smooth-rolling wheels make it easy to turn so that all plants get their full share of light. Shape and dimensions of trays cause each and every plant to be placed at outside edge where all are easily reached for watering and turning.

Three 12" x 31" trays hold 20 to 30 large plants. No-drip rolled edges catch surplus water. Trays will hold up to 1/2" of water so no spillage runs off on floor. Stand is 37" high to top of handles, trays are 10 1/2" apart. Folds flat to 3" for handy storage when not in use. The 3-Tier Aluminum Plant Stand serves a double purpose as it can also be used as a smart looking hostess cart.

The rich, satiny aluminum finish is etched and lacquered to prevent oxidation. Easily cleaned with damp cloth. Specify Natural Aluminum Finish or Decorated Baked Enamel Finish in Flame Red, Leaf Green or Ebony with hardwood handles.

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MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Phil Libby, 1508 Hamilton Ave., Racine, Wis.

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period March 27, 1954, to June 15, 1954.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Amazon Pink Delight 7-21-53

Mrs. George S. Vallin
2455 Hayes Lane
Beaumont, Texas

"This plant originated as a sport of Pink Delight. It has been propagated twice from leaf cuttings. The leaves are heart shaped, dark green, with solid dark red backs. The flowers are large, heavy in texture, light frosty pink, with color deepening around edges of blossom. Grows very symmetrical."

April Showers 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"This is a bright lav. pink full double bloom, on bronzy dark green tapered foliage. Underside of leaves are red, slightly cupped upward, heavily waxed and quilted. Blooms are borne in heavy clusters just above foliage. Very different."

Black Magic 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"The foliage of this plant turns almost black at maturity."

Burgundy Empress 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"This plant has burgundy heavily ruffled, sweet pea type blooms on very dark bronzy girl shaped leaves, with an olive green edge. It is a semi-miniature, that blooms well, with blossoms held just above the foliage."

Cherie 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"This is a flowing type of plant, with wavy girl foliage, shadings of bronze and green in leaf with lighter edge."

Dark Victory 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"A deep wine red double bi-color, some of the petals almost black. Foliage bronzy dark green. Well patterned girl leaved plant, free bloomer, and has good growing habits."

Double Honey Bud 4-4-54

Lyndon Lyon
14 Mutchler Street
Dolgeville, New York

Fantasette 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Medium green, pointed girl foliage."

Gay Coquette 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Medium green girl foliage."

General Herkimer 4-5-54

Lyndon Lyon

14 Mutchler Street
Dolgeville, New York

Jenny 4-5-54

Lyndon Lyon
14 Mutchler Street
Dolgeville, New York

Kansas City Kitty 3-23-54

Mrs. L. H. Rose
559 Evanston
Kansas City 22, Missouri

"A lovely very shiny glossy foliage, center leaves will stand up in a semi cone shape, outside stands gracefully around and on top of pot, very large white spot in leaf white running out in veins of leaf, very large light blue blooms in clusters up to eight on a stem. Good all time bloomer."

Lady Corrine 8-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"This plant has large bi-colored blooms on dark green girl foliage. Upper two petals and half of lower three an intense dubonnet shade, center bright rose orchid. Blooms well and is a medium sized plant."

Miss Cathy 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Enormous, deep pink blooms with vivid red eye, borne in profusion on medium green girl foliage. Not similar to any yet known. Plant will be large and very free of growth and bloom, yet not rangy, but compact."

Pandora 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Light green, pink girl type foliage, medium green."

Peg O' My Heart 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"A free growing upright girl type of plant that does not get tight, or rangy."

Fischers Pink Fringette 2-18-54

Fischer Flowers
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey

Queensroyal 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Double purple blooms."

Rose Pink Queen 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Full rose pink double blooms on medium green girl foliage. Blooms are very full and brightly colored. Foliage is also very bright and shows good contrast. Very different."

Rose's Eddie Boy 3-23-54

Mrs. Luther H. Rose
559 Evanston Avenue
Kansas City 22, Missouri

"Soft pliable foliage, dark green, saw toothed edge has large dark purple blossoms five to seven on one stem, a good bloomer."

Rose's Lollipop 3-23-54

Mrs. Luther H. Rose
559 Evanston Avenue
Kansas City 22, Missouri

"Another beautiful girl foliage. Large bronze shiny foliage, large white spot, notched edge. Handsome large dark purple, blue patent leather texture. Round bloom unlike any violet bloom, we think. Blooms in clusters, six to eight on mature plant. Large flat plant."

Rose's Pride DuPont 3-23-54

Mrs. Luther H. Rose
559 Evanston Avenue
Kansas City 22, Missouri

"Indeed a pride and joy; it has lovely very hairy, very dark green pliable foliage, almost black sheen, saw toothed edge. Large light blue blossoms up to fourteen on one stem in mature plants. A regular bouquet on one stem. A good bloomer."

Rose's Sally Ann 3-23-54

Mrs. Luther H. Rose
559 Evanston Avenue
Kansas City 22, Missouri

"Has lovely large supreme shiny bronzy girl foliage saw toothed edge. Very large white spot in leaf, has a very ruffled dark blue blossom. Average five to seven flowers on stem. Wonderful bloomer."

Silver Token 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Blooms are a sweet pea type, color is an ivory shade with a silvery tip to each of the top two petals. Very different. Foliage deeply cut girl type, with black green and ivory shadings, very heavily waxed. Superb and entirely different. Semi miniature."

Sir Lancelot 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Silvery green under, bright green top leaves."

Starlace 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Enormous white blooms with a heavy ruffle on each petal, has star shaped blue shading in center of cup shaped blooms. du Pont type foliage of medium green. Has four to seven blooms per stem and blooms freely."

Nebraska Skies 6-15-54

Mrs. Chas. Reed
6909 Havelock Avenue
Lincoln 7, Nebraska

"Flower white with bluish line down center of each petal. All petals rugged. Flowers flat."

Rose Annas Pink Dresden 4-5-54

Rosa Peters
1726 Lenoard, N. E.
Grand Rapids 5, Michigan

"Real deep pink. Foliage heavy and sturdy. Flowers are airy double. Lacy. Symmetrical and well balanced."

Sundance 4-8-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Has medium green smooth tapered leaves."

Texas Fringe 7-21-53

Mrs. George S. Vallin
2455 Hayes Lane
Beaumont, Texas

"This plant is a seedling and has been propagated three times from leaf cuttings, the leaves are very dark green with light green veins, red underneath; are both waved and fringed. In form the plant resembles "HOLLY." The flowers are a rich orchid and always fringed. Prolific bloomer, with seven to ten blossoms on each stalk."



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African Violet growers find OVENE especially effective. If not available at your dealers send \$1.00 for 1 lb. supply —

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MORRIS, ILLINOIS

Windsong 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"Huge delicate pale blue blooms with faint powdery blue shadings, on Pink Girl dark green foliage. Foliage has true pattern in leaf. Blooms profusely and is most different. Blooms held well above foliage and plant is medium size."

Young Bess 4-10-54

Granger Gardens, Inc.
Route 2
Medina, Ohio

"This is a double white bloom with red markings at the edges, on bright green girl foliage. Flowers are brightly colored and the foliage is clear and bright. A compact yet free growing plant."

PART II

NAME RESERVATIONS

The following Name Reservations were made during this period:

Bloomer Girl
Blue Sunburst
Brussel Sprout Girl
Canadian Spoon
Du Pont Delight
Lady Sullivan
Pilgrim Maid

Pink Flare
Sorine
Tinker Girl
Violet Beauty Girl
Wax Doll
White Dolly Dimples

THE END



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QUESTION BOX



LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

Hope that you all have had a lovely summer and that your African violets have been growing and blooming all over the place. As usual we have many questions and also quite a few answers. I do appreciate the answers as well as other helpful hints that you send in.

FOLIAR FEEDING

I have been experimenting with this for a few months and my findings are as follows: On older plants the outer layer of leaves stay clean and rich in color and take on a heavier texture. The young center leaves show more rapid growth. On young starts the result is amazing. From "mouse ear" period one flat of young stuff has been foliar fed once every five or six days. The foliage is beautiful and growth is rapid. I use root feeding on these every two weeks also. The principle of foliar feeding is to duplicate nature. During thunder storms nitrogen is washed on leaves from rain. In the tropics those plants which live in trees (orchids, etc.) receive feeding from rains in the form of nitrogen and dissolved bird droppings, etc. It is Nature's way of taking care of her own. In the February issue of Popular Gardening (1954) there is an article by Montreal Botanical Gardens on "Foliar Feeding." They have used it with great success on shipments of plants which looked pretty well beat up on arrival. Within weeks all were growing well and looked healthy and vigorous. I have used RA-PID-GRO with a formula of 23-21-17 and RX 15, with a formula 15-30-15 in my own tests and I find they show more response to a higher nitrogen balance instead of higher phosphorus. So I used higher phosphorus in my root feeding as phosphorus produces good root growth as well as bud and bloom. And a high phosphorus content in soil makes more nitrogen available to plant. It's too early to say whether these young plants will come into bloom sooner. I think that will depend on the balance of heat and humidity and light as well as food. However, their growth is more rapid than the flat that has not been foliar fed. Also a tray of rooting leaves responded with more babies faster than the tray that wasn't sprayed with RA-PID-GRO. I did find on one or two varieties that foliar feeding produced a fast growing leaf with a short petiole in the center so that a crowded condition developed. Christina and Pink Lustre were two of these. Foliar fed gloxinia seedlings were sturdier and better color than root fed ones. I sprayed them from the time they developed four tiny leaves.

Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

I have been raising African violets as a hobby for about fifteen years. At present I have about one hundred and twenty of many varieties. After reading an article on foliar feeding in the Popular Gardening Magazine, where RA-PID-GRO was used with excellent results on roses and other flowers, I decided to experiment and sent for a pound can. I began using it -- one teaspoon to two quarts of warm water sprayed once a month over my entire collection, babies and all, even those under fluorescent light. My plants have beautiful foliage -- healthy dark leaves and good bloom. Once I decided to spray in between regular monthly spraying and my plants looked weak so will only spray once a month from this time on. Between the spray I water in the usual way, alternating Marvel Plant Food and Hyponex. I read every issue of our Violet Magazine and all that I know has been learned from its pages. I wish I could find out how to make my small plants bloom earlier, also how to find suitable leaf mold or compost to mix in potting soil. I hope my experience with foliar feeding will be of use to others as I know my plants are stronger -- better plants since using it. It provides not only moisture -- humidity but food as well.

Mrs. E. B. Morton, Toulon, Ill.

To Robert Woodward, Philadelphia, Pa.

In regard to how long a blossom should last, I kept track of a first bloom on a Pansy violet. It faded on the twenty-eighth day. It was grown in sandy compost in a small plastic pot eighteen inches from a north window in the kitchen where we cook with bottled gas. Alternate Hyponex and Plant Marvel, once every two weeks. We use rain water. Temperature, seventy-two degrees in the daytime and sixty-one degrees at night. I water from the top six days per week.

Harry L. Fake, Pinckney, Mich.

I started my violets growing under fluorescent lights right after New Years. I was amazed to see such quick results in buds forming. Also my flowers stay on for two weeks or more. My Black Beauty has, for the first time in three years, bloomed. It has now had a blossom open for at least ten days. I don't ventilate the cellar at all. I know they like air and figure maybe a little leaks through the cellar hatchway. The temperature stays at seventy degrees. I have not checked humidity. I keep all plants in tin cookie trays covered with aluminum foil and filled with chicken grits kept moist at all times. To sum it



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African Violets, Gloxinias, etc. quickly respond to this special booster diet. Highly concentrated. Completely soluble liquid food. Enlarges and prolongs blooms. 3-oz can (makes 120 qts) 50¢.



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Viol-Ogen Rooting Medium (vigorous starting), 8-oz 70¢. Viol-Ogen Potting Mixture (scientifically balanced—dry packed), 3-lb 75¢.

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VIOL-OGEN
THE SECRET OF FINE AFRICAN VIOLETS

all up, I have more buds, better size flowers and lovelier plants. I like growing under lights very much.

Mrs. Leon C. Osborne, Orange, Conn.

To Mrs. Thurza E. Beynon, Deep River, Ont., Can.

Last year I planted a seed pod that was over a year old. This was a cross of Blue Bobby x Tongwensis. The seed germinated in several days and I would say were one hundred percent germination for I have over four hundred small plants from this one seed pod and threw away one flat because time did not permit my planting them a second time and they became spindly.

It is my opinion that early planting, that is as soon as seed are harvested, result in the poorest germination. Believe there should be a ripening period or perhaps drying out would be better.

Best results have come from seed harvested in September and planted in January which gives a four month curing period. Have found complete germination to take over a period of three months in some cases, and therefore believe seed propagation requires lots of patience. It would be most interesting to know just how long seed will remain fertile. I know of one seed pod that was good after twelve months.

Clarissa Harris, Los Angeles, Calif.

I pollinated a plant three years ago and after about seven months the seed pod was ripe so I removed it. I found it inconvenient to plant it that year because I did not have the room to care for the seedlings. I left the seed in the pod and stored it in a small covered glass jar, with the label of the cross. I did not plant it until a year ago. (Two years after pollination.) The seeds sprouted in three weeks and I now have fifty lovely plants, one-third of them are blooming with more coming into bloom every day. I know the seed can be kept at least a year after it has ripened, but I advise keeping it in the pod.

Mrs. Edith Lundberg, LaSalle, Ill.

After the Philadelphia Convention in 1951, I pollinated a bloom on Kewensis with a large blue bloom I had gotten at the Convention. On August 8, of the same year, took the seed pod off, left it out to dry about two weeks, then placed it in an envelope, sealed shut, placed it in the buffet drawer. On March 13 this year, planted the seeds on a brick. Six weeks later the seeds started to come up and as of May 11 there are at least twenty-five plants up. Had a cross of Norseman and Red Lady which I planted last year. Do not recall how long I had kept the seed pod, but it was four months from the time of planting until the seedlings started to come up; they also were planted on a brick.

Mrs. Ralph G. Frye, Springfield, Pa.

A friend gave me a seed pod a year ago and I didn't even care for it but took it not wanting to hurt her feelings. Thought it too fine work for me but the other day I planted them on top of Vermiculite which in turn was on top of a wee bit of soil. I planted these in a plastic refrigera-

tor box. They have come up very soon and seemingly there are hundreds of them.

Mrs. Luther D. Colburn, Marlboro, N. H.

I have always thought seeds would stay good only a short time but find I was wrong as I had a box of seed "my own crosses" which is almost two years old and have been in top of a built-in cupboard. About three weeks ago I decided to try just for the fun of it so planted seed very thickly on top of a mixture of Terra-lite and peat moss in a glass shaving cream jar and to my surprise I now have eight tiny green specks. Seed from this same box I feel safe to say grew one hundred per cent when fresh. In fact it came up so thick I had to keep thinning it day after day.

Golda E. Wolf, Davenport, Iowa

I can say that I have kept seed pods from eight to ten months after being picked and had success in germination. However, I must admit that none of these pods remained on the plant longer than three to three and one-half months, which, I understand, is not long enough for a fully matured seed pod. Something always happened to hasten the removal of the pod. One seemed to have rotted, so that I could have smeared it between my fingers, but I picked it off, dried it, planted the seed nine -- ten months later and I now have seedlings from it. I have known people to throw away pods that were picked off accidentally or met some other disaster, thinking they would not contain "live" seed. Don't do it. You might be throwing away a prize seedling. Needless to say, these short-term pods don't produce one hundred or more seedlings, but that is only a blessing in disguise because I wouldn't know where to put one hundred seedlings.

Cora M. West, Buffalo, N. Y.

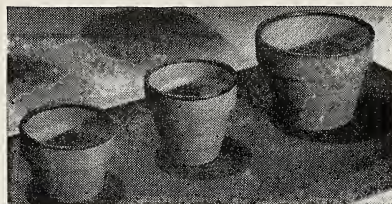
Q: We have just organized an African Violet club here and I thought you might ask in the Violet Magazine for ideas used in other clubs for their meetings. I feel that just starting out if we don't have an objective at each meeting, the members might feel that they are not getting enough out of it and lose interest.

Mrs. Ruth Burdick, Norwich, N. Y.

A: Your question is a very good one, especially as there are so many new clubs starting up all of the time. I will tell you the topics that have been covered in our club which is only in its second year.

1. Organization
2. By-Laws, Grafting of leaves
3. Hints from various Robins
4. Grooming plants for show
5. Planted seed in various ways
6. Slides from National
7. Panel discussion, 4 members, Best method to start leaves, Soil mixtures, Fertilizing
8. Convention report
9. New varieties and care
10. Best ways to grow African Violets (outside speaker)
11. Exchange of plants and leaves
12. Talk and slides, president of National Society

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1 3/4	inch starting pots	— 36 for	\$2.20
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2 1/2	inch starting pots	— 18 for	2.20
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5	inch squatty pots	— 6 for	2.20
3	inch semi-squatty	— 14 for	2.20
5	inch semi-squatty	— 6 for	2.20
4	inch standard pots	— 9 for	2.20

The following size pots now also available in color: green, yellow, white or red baked-on enamel -- may be assorted:

3	inch semi-squatty	— 10 for	\$2.20
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All pots listed are stepped design except 4" standard and 5" semi-squatty which have straight sides. All have treated edges. We replace any pots broken in shipment. Write for quantity prices.

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4 lbs. \$1.15 9 lbs. \$2.25 13 lbs. \$2.85
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We do have leaves out of the heavily frilled Hi-Loas: Purple; White; Cobalt; the exciting Light Blue blend; as well as the double Minnetonka and the double orchid Revelation. Cuttings of necessity will be quite young this Fall, leaves having been set in mid-June; if you want sturdy large cuttings all ready to divide, wait until next spring.

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NEWNAN, GEORGIA

13. Slides -- African Violets and gloxinias
14. Slides -- members' violets
15. Highlights of arranging. Using African Violets in driftwood. Demonstration on how to do it
16. Easter arrangements made by two members
17. Slides -- "Insects and Diseases"
18. Picnic
19. Christmas meeting -- ten members to bring arrangements. Draw names and exchange plants
20. St. Louis Convention report

These are just a few of the things that can be done. If anyone has added programs that have proved interesting please send them in as there are so many requests.

Q: Last night at our club meeting I decided you might have the answer to one of our numerous questions. All the members are saying that their plants with variegated leaves, such as Frosty and Wintergreen are gradually losing their light color on the foliage. In other words the leaves are becoming all green. One member asked a dealer and he shrugged his shoulders in answer. Can you give us a suggestion as to what we should do?

Mrs. B. F. Smith, Fairborn, Ohio

A: If I knew the answer I certainly would try it myself. I have tried both Frosty and Wintergreen under lights and both keep getting greener all the time. If some reader has the solution please drop me a note.

Q: Could any of the readers suggest ways I might add humidity to our house so that my violets would do better? Even with cans of water on the hot air registers, the humidity barely reaches twenty per cent.

Kathleen Haeseler, Leadville, Colo.

A: I keep my electric roaster connected and filled with water in my plant room. It is easy to raise the humidity by simply turning on the roaster for a half hour. Of course, soft water is best for the roaster.

Mrs. H. W. Finke, Sacramento, Calif.

Q: I started my violet hobby about a year ago, so you see I am quite an amateur, but already my collection numbers between three and four hundred plants. I have some problems and hope some one can help me. I start leaves to root in cistern water in colored bottles in north windows. I cover the tops of the bottles with light weight aluminum foil, make a slight indentation over the bottle opening and punch a hole for the leaf with a pencil, making the hole larger than the violet stem. Leaves root readily in a few weeks. When roots are from one-fourth to one-half inch in length I pot into two inch clay pots filled with equal parts sand, peat and vermiculite, baked one hour at three hundred and fifty degrees. I water from the bottom when the top of the soil feels barely moist to the finger. I use fertilizer in the water every two weeks -- using it at half strength of the directions on the can. I alternate Hyponex and Plant Marvel. Now here is my

problem. Just at the time the little plantlets are about ready to emerge, the parent leaf rots off at the soil line. This seems to be such a critical time. The parent leaf starts at the soil line to have that look and consistency of leaves that have petiole rot but these do not have any contact with the rim of the pot. Sometimes they are supported by wooden toothpicks or twigs. In a week or two or three over the parent leaf tumbles. The plantlets do not come up at all and upon emptying the pots, I find a mass of roots with leaves forming just ready to break through the soil. I find it necessary to water about every other day and the dirt is completely saturated. What am I doing wrong? Sometimes I find the plantlets turning toward the bottom of the pot instead of coming to the top. Am I planting them too deep? I try to have base of leaf about three-fourths to one inch below top of soil. Another problem puzzling me is why do the stems of some, when rooting in the bottles of water, turn the base of the stem upward into a semi-circle, even sometimes making a complete circle? This makes potting so difficult.

Mrs. A. A. Rose, Story City, Iowa

A: I have found from past experience that I have much better luck in rooting my leaves in plain vermiculite. The roots form and the parent leaf is firm. Then the little plantlets form and break through the vermiculite easily. This elimi-

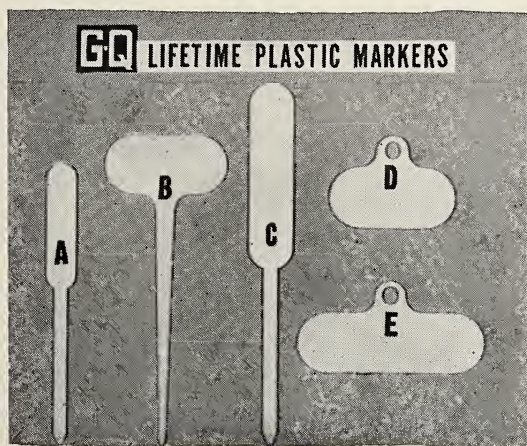
nates the stem forming semi-circles or complete circles which will happen in water. Sometimes I put the same potting mixture that you use in the bottom of the pot and then use an inch of vermiculite and insert the leaf. This works fine and the roots will start reaching in the soil mixture, and become very firm. I think that you have been planting your rooted leaf a little too deep.

Q: I have a problem that I hope you can help me solve. I have an African violet and an episcia plant which had been growing nicely for two years. My wife and I had to go out of town suddenly for ten days and when we came back, found our plants wilted. Examined roots and found them in good condition. Is there any way to make them grow new leaves again?

A. Willner, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A: Obviously you left your plants so that they could get some moisture or the root system would not have been in good condition. In this case I do believe that the new growth will form as soon as they get adjusted again. Evidently the lack of fresh air made them wilt down. This applies to the African violet. The episcias I understand must never be allowed to dry out but the violets will take lack of care and come bouncing back again.

Q: Can you give me an answer why the leaves curl under on one plant with the same light, soil



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and water while another of the same kind of plant does not? The leaves are very stiff, in fact to try and roll them out is impossible as they snap in the center of the leaf. I give lime and the same food as the others get.

Question 2. I have a Red Girl that was just loaded with buds when I bought it and buds still come and they swell to the breaking point and then dry up like a hard dried brown ball. I have never been able to tell if it is any color flower. It is a fairly large plant and looks like a very healthy plant.

Gertrude Laudolt, Trenton, N. J.

A: Can anyone help with these two problems? The first might be stunt.

Q: In order to treat a large number of violet plants for cyclamen mite I need a small quantity of sodium selenate. There are available several trade products of a two to four per cent concentration, using one capsule to a pot. In treating several hundred pots this would be a very inefficient method. I would like to obtain 100 gm to 250 gm of the 100% commercial chemical. Will you please advise me where I might purchase this material?

Geo. H. Stouder, Fort Wayne, Ind.

A: I carry the 99% sodium selenate both in capsule form and in bulk. Because of the dif-

ficulty of getting the bulk material weighed accurately, I encourage people to purchase the capsule material. I can sell the bulk in either three ounce or one pound quantities, the prices of which are \$3.25 and \$9.00 respectively.

Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, N. J.

Q: About two years ago I could grow African violets without any trouble at all. Then just like that, every plant I had began to die leaf by leaf until all my plants numbering thirty were gone. I sincerely hope that you can help me with this problem especially when I have tried so hard to grow them successfully. Since I lost all my plants I have not even had any luck rooting them. Many people, friends of mine, have given me good healthy leaves to root and within one week they have all rotted. The rot seems to start on the base of the leaf and then the leaf starts turning brown, sort of transparent when held to the light, spreads very fast until the entire leaf has collapsed. At first when this happened I thought I might have a gas leak in the house but I have other plants growing.

Mrs. Frances K. Titock, Chicago, Ill.

A: This sounds very much like the phytophthora infection described in the research report in the March, 1953, issue of the African Violet Magazine. Unfortunately we have no real good answer on what to use as a cure. Fermate has been



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reported to have given good results in cases that might have been this type of infection. The best suggestion I could make would be to dust the infected plants lightly with Fermate and also to work Fermate into the soil. Mrs. Titock does not give any details of where her soil is obtained and whether it is sterilized. This is the kind of thing that frequently results from the use of unsterilized soil particularly if it is gotten from various places and if plants from various places are also obtained and potted into it. The infection turns up from some source and once introduced runs rampant through the collection. It would be well to discard all soil in which plants have rotted and scald the pots before re-using and in the future, use only soil that has been sterilized. Strangely enough, in cases like this, treating the soil with Lindane or Chlordane has frequently given relief. Neither of these things will actually kill the phytophthora organism but they will kill unsuspected co-existing insect infestation and when they are killed off, the fungi are unable to enter the plants. Either of these can be used on soil in which plants are already growing, being, in this respect, much better than the volatile fumigants which must be aired out of the soil before planting.

Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, N. J.

Q: Could you tell me why I will get buds far down in my plants and yet they dry up rather

than develop? I bake my soil and I don't think I am keeping them too dry in spite of my fear of root rot. Also what few buds (and I do mean FEW) that do "make it" fall off quickly and I get only one or two blooms per stem. The plants are healthy looking and the gas company insists I have no leaks.

Mary Barger, Denver, Colo.

A: This sounds more like a gas leak but as you have checked into this there are a couple of other guesses. Occasionally a condition of this kind arises from over fertilizing or use of the wrong fertilizer resulting in concentrations in the top layers of the soil of harmful quantities of certain fertilizer salts. You could water from the top with a large excess of water allowing the water to run through the bottom of the pot and escape. In this way the excess salts are washed away.

Q: Some months ago, I bought two doubles, called Azure Beauty and Rose Azure. I have no doubts concerning the Azure Beauty, but was quite startled to see what looked like my Rose Azure on a recent Magazine cover and it was named Azure Beauty from Alma Wright's collection. Will someone who knows Rose Azure offer some information as to the color.

Cora M. West, Buffalo, N. Y.

A: The Rose Azures or Azure Roses that I have seen have a rosy and white blossom with foliage

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the same as Azure Beauty. Perhaps some other readers have comments to make.

Q: Will someone explain why plants with girl leaves bunch so closely. I thought the lights were causing this but experience the same with window exposure. I also have tried to correct this by not potting crown below pot rim and with no effect. I am surprised no one has complained about this before as there are any number of growers in our club who have become discouraged with the girl plants and are gradually discarding them for this reason.

Mrs. Herbert Bantz, Des Plaines, Ill.

A: Strong sunlight and fluorescent lights do tend to make the girl leaves bunch. Have you tried raising them in north windows? The plant seems to open up more but then the bloom is not as heavy. Some of our club members remove several of the bunched up center leaves and this gives the leaves a chance to spread out.

Q: Some of my Violets have developed a scale on the outer petioles. Can you tell me what it is and what I can do to correct it? In examining the roots of these plants I do not find any abnormality. The plant looks healthy and is blooming, but the center leaves seem to be more hairy. At first I thought it was dust but it did not come off when I sprayed it.

Mrs. Elmer Serfass, Allentown, Pa.

A: I am wondering if you sprayed your plant with water or with an insecticide such as Optox or N. N. O. R. Is there someone that has had this scaly condition and corrected it? Please write and tell us the cure.

Q: I am enclosing some Violet leaves which are diseased. I hope you can give me some information. This plant, Miss America, is two years old. It had become a beautiful large plant and had bloomed very well. Last week I noticed the leaves drooping. Upon examination the stems were drying up and turning a dark brown. In a week's time all the leaves were affected. I cut the stems open but did not find an insect of any kind. The roots looked O. K. The leaves were perfect. None of the rest of my plants have ever been diseased. Have had no plants or flowers from any greenhouse. I have about fifty varieties.

Mrs. James W. Jones, Iowa City, Iowa

A: Your roots may have looked healthy but I think that if you had made a clean cut at the base of the plant you would have found some rot in the main stem of your plant. This often happens and you will first notice that the outside leaves will start drooping and the petioles turn brown. If you cut at this time you can remove several of the outside leaves and scrape the rotted parts away and then re-root your plant in water. The next letter is a good example of what I mean.

Q: I've had Fantasy for three years, off and on it would grow and bloom only to gradually die down so I decided maybe I kept it too wet. Then I kept it on the dry side. It kept dying down until I had to do something fast if I wanted to save it. So what was left, I broke off all roots

and placed remains of plant in a glass of water. Now after about two months it has a very heavy root system and is growing into a beautiful plant but still in water. Since December, 1953, I have fed all my plants with Stewart's Plant Vigor as directed. It can be obtained at Stewart's Acres, Box 23, Wisa, Illinois.

Stella Lavengood, Hillside, Ill.

A: I have three or four plants re-rooting in water at all times. At the first sign of droop, if this method is used often the plant can be saved. They will go on blossoming in the water while forming new roots.

Q: I have a violet labelled Sailor Girl. It has curvy leaves round and scalloped at the tips and deeply notched at the base of the leaf. It is very beautiful in shape and texture with a pale center as the girl types have. At certain intervals it acquires a red tone. The leaves curve back, twist sideways and assumes interesting shapes. The flower is light blue, a very pretty shade and is blooming nicely. The plant is very young. Every one who sees it says they never have seen any like it. I have read descriptions of Sailor Girl in my African Violet Magazines but do not think it is like this one. Sometimes the leaves look chartreuse. Maybe one of the readers can tell me what it is. I would like to have the correct name.

Mrs. Lyle Schulty, Washington, Iowa

A: I am sure some of our readers will come forth with an answer. You might very well have a sport of Sailor Girl.

The following Hints have been sent to me by Mrs. H. W. Finke, of Sacramento, California, and I am sure that you will find them helpful.

SELF-POLLINATION:

I believe this is much more common than many seem to think. Most of us pick off the empty stems as soon as the flower falls, and well before we can tell if pollination has taken place. A loosened flower frequently hangs on the tip of the pistil for some time before it falls, and I believe that pollination takes place then. I know that whenever I am gone for a week I find pods on many plants when I return.

NEMATODES:

A California State Nematologist told us at a meeting that they will not be killed by extensive drying of the soil.

ROOT and CROWN ROT:

We have been told that there will be a product on the market very soon that will combine a very effective fertilizer with an antibiotic that will control the rot. I do not know what the trade name will be but it will undoubtedly be advertised in the Magazine, and we can all look for it. One of the hobbyists out here helped to perfect the formula. (Praises be! This I shall look for. L. S. M.)

SPRAYING:

A window cleaner bottle and finger-spray is handy for quick use on individual plants when

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needed. I keep the bottle sitting on the hot water heater so it is always warm and ready for use.

WAX ON POTS:

Candle wax (get your friends to save their stubs for you) will not mildew as the usual paraffin does. I dip each pot twice -- first time, deep enough to wax all the collar and in quite hot wax -- next time, in slightly cooler wax, and not so deep. This lasts for many months for me.

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When I want to remove it, I turn them upside down on heavy newspapers in a warm oven -- often while the oven cools after baking.

REDBACKED LEAVES:

My plants have more color on the undersides of the leaves in spring and fall than any other time. I don't know if this is due to the light or to other conditions.

WATERING:

Most of my plants spend most of their time in the service room, where the temperature goes as low as fifty-three degrees many winter nights. The plants are doing very well -- lots of bloom -- but that "room temperature" is too cool for the water to be used on the plants. It causes the flowers to drop fast. It is better to have the water lukewarm or warmer.

REPOTTING:

I have been interested in the reports from those who set their plants out for the summer. I find mine do very well on my south east screened porch. There are solid walls on the north and west. They get only morning sun (screened, of course), but plenty of light and a wide range of temperature. Their leaves do turn light, and they seem to be shocked for awhile,

If you use fairly large pieces of pottery over the bottom hole of the pots, the plants can be pushed up and out with a spike or heavy wire.

If you pack the new potting soil around the edge of the new pot when changing to a larger one, then press tightly into the center with the old pot (or another of the same size), the plant can be dropped into it with very little disturbance of roots or leaves. A little experience will soon teach you how deep to make the hole. This is a particularly handy trick when plants have heavy crisp leaves, as the duPonts, or turn down over the pots as Snow Prince.

GROWING PLANTS OUTDOORS:

but soon get over it, and continue blooming. I have occasionally set old plants in their pots in the ground with my tuberous rooted begonias. They do well, too, after their initial shock.

From Sue Morton, Toulon, Ill., about redbacked leaves:

In answer to the lady who asked how to keep the lovely red from disappearing on red backed leaves. I have found that mine like a cooler north window. As long as they are kept there the red is lovely but moved to east or west windows it disappears.

From Laura Morris, St. Michaels, Md., about blossoms falling:

My experience with blooms falling off early is allowing my plant to become too dry and then watering when room temperatures are high.

Thank you one and all and I feel sure that if we follow all of this good advice we will all be raising perfect specimen plants.

THE END

Memories

Grace Wayman, St. Louis, Mo.

The 1954 African Violet Convention is history, and all over the world "April" has been torn from the calendars, but "April in St. Louis" leaves many memories.

We have fond memories of the wonderful people we met -- people from various parts of the good old U. S. A., and too, some of our good neighbors from Canada. We enjoyed their visit so very much and our greatest hope is that all of them, too, enjoyed their visit with us.

"April in St. Louis" leaves memories with your reporter who had the pleasure of meeting ADA MAGILL -- ALMA WRIGHT -- GRACE ROWE -- FLOYD JOHNSON -- MYRTLE RADTKE. Oh! why have I started mentioning names? I met so many wonderful people while in the receiving line at the Tea -- too numerous to mention here.

"April in St. Louis" leaves memories of the many local members who gave hours of their precious time, planning and working to make the Convention and Show one of our most pleasant memories. MILDRED TRAUBEL and GINNY ZIMMERMANN, co-convention chairmen, were always on hand to greet all and counsel the many fine members who served under their direction. Memories of registration handled so capably by THELMA USINGER and EVELYN DELPORTE; the finances in the expert hands of RUTH SMITH.

Memories of colonial bouquets; bouquets of real dogwood; darling girl dolls; beautiful fans -- all made by the artistic hands of the decoration chairmen, MARGARET FERRIS, MILDRED GREBE and their committee. The Tour under the chairmanship of MARGE RITCHIE and GERTRUDE KING was -- despite the rain -- a pleasure, for it ended at the Tea given by the Council, and was made pretty as a picture by ELOISE SKILLING, GEORGIA RUMBLE and their committee. The orchids used in the table arrangement were through the courtesy of Dr. Anderson, Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Information on any question was pleasantly given by MARY CLARE MERLE, DOROTHY MILLER and their committee. The myriad of door prizes were a joy to receive and were secured through the scores of letters written by LILLIAN DATES and ANN STUTKO. The ushers and pages who delivered the door prizes and messages were under the chairmanship of MARY CHAMBERS and MILDRED HENRY. Hospitality for both Convention and Show was handled by ORA LEE KREITZ, CLEM DEMKO and the many local members who stood for hours to guard the precious plants and to guide the crowds that viewed them.

Mentioning plants brings memories of the Show which really was a "thing of beauty and a joy to behold." EDE MOCH, show chairman, is a most competent person and when given an assignment will spend herself to fulfill it with completeness and perfection. NEVA ANDERSON, chairman of staging, is a perfectionist also, and a pleasure to work with and for -- as her committee will readily agree. The attractive ADELE TRETTER was in charge of schedule.

MARIE NALLY, chairman of entries, and her committee worked with clock-like precision, both before and after the Show. RUTH NOLTE, in charge of classification, was very sincere in her assignment and served untiringly. MAY CHAMPION and her committee of clerks were of great assistance to the judges. ANITA ASHNER was on hand to sell tickets during the hours the public was admitted to the Show. Properties, a big job, was headed by the smiling CHARLOTTE SCHROEDER. STELLA WAHNUNG and her committee was in charge of watering the plants, an exacting task. Publicity chairmen for both Convention and Show were GRACE WAYMAN and ELEANOR McCLURE. Through the efforts of Eleanor, who writes a weekly column in the St. Louis Post Dispatch, we had a page spread, in color, of the Show, two weeks after it closed.

To all those who attended the Convention and Show, and who visited us in "April in St. Louis," and to the local members who served so willingly and untiringly to make the Convention Show a success -- GINNY, MILDRED, EDE and NEVA say "Thanks a Million" for their MEMORIES.

THE END

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Norfolk, Nebr.

CORRECTIONS ON AFFILIATED CHAPTERS AS PUBLISHED IN 1953-54 MEMBER'S HANDBOOK.

Omitted by error:

TWIN CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. Forrest Hull, Pres.
3418 Pleasant St., South Bend, Ind.

LANSING SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY

Mrs. Walter Blake, Pres.
1203 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, Mich.



Your Affiliated Chapter Chairman
is:

GRACE ROWE

749 Columbia Street
Aurora, Illinois

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER OF AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. Herbert E. Nagel, Pres.
821 Hillman, Alhambra, Calif.

Omitted account Chapter in arrears:

HASTING AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY -- Hasting, Nebr.

HUNTINGTON AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY -- W. Va.

SNOW GIRLS AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

MIDWAY FRINGETTES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. PAUL

SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF DENVER, COLORADO, CHAPTER 2

(Was published but should not have been as has been withdrawn account chapter in arrears.)

BALTIMORE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

was reinstated April 15, 1954

Mrs. C. L. Creswell, Pres.

Springdale Fullerton, Md.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA

Was reinstated April 27, 1954

Mrs. W. C. Holland, Pres.

725 N. Main St., Tusculumbia, Ala.

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THE END

Dear Friends of Affiliated Chapters:-

It was nice meeting you at the Convention in St. Louis. Everything was so lovely and the African violets so beautiful. We are proud of the Affiliated Chapter members in Missouri for the marvelous job they did. For every Affiliated Chapter member attending I'm sure I echo their sentiments when I say, "thank you everyone for a wonderful Convention."

As you will note from the list of Chapters published we are continuing to grow. "Welcome" to each and every one and especially do we say "Welcome" to our first British Branch in England.

For the benefit of those officers who are complying with my REQUEST sheet (published in June African Violet Magazine) I would like to say I do appreciate your cooperation. It is bringing results. Whereas at last report our Affiliated Chapters were ten to fifteen per cent in arrears in their Chapter Membership fee I'm most happy to report it is now down to three per cent. Keep up the good work.

Many times we have requested that you send us your list of officers immediately after your annual elections. Twenty-nine Chapters have failed to do so. Are you one of the twenty-nine? If so get busy please. It is important that we have your officers and their addresses for this is our only means of communicating with you. Too, many times we are asked for Affiliated Chapters and their address in a certain area. I'm always happy to comply with these requests but feel I'm not doing a very good job when I'm sending the name and address of a president who perhaps has been out of office for two years or more.

It was fun sending you the Award Ribbons. They went east, west, north and south. Must have been some wonderful shows. Wish I could have attended all of them.

Our entry tags arrived a little late but we were able to send out a few of them and will perhaps be able to have them for you for next year.

In closing would like to say that any one interested in affiliating your society with African Violet Society of America, Inc., will find the qualifications for affiliation in the March 1954 African Violet Magazine. However, do remember please I am always very willing to help you. If in doubt please feel free to write me.

Any officer in an Affiliated Chapter that does not have a copy of my REQUEST sheet and would like one to post in your Record Book, please feel free to write me for one.

Remember please I'm always ready and willing to serve you in any way I can. Always happy to have your friendly letters. Let me hear from you often.

Very sincerely,
Grace Rowe

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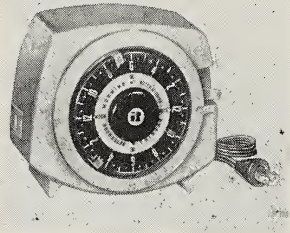
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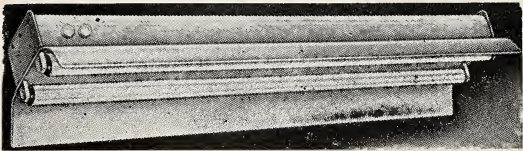
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Wing-reflector is attractive design with lustrous gray exterior and baked white enamel reflecting surface which provides more light over larger area from higher point. Fixtures without wing-reflector are finished in Durowhite enamel and face of fixture is a space-saving reflecting surface. All are 2-light fixtures drilled for attaching to racks or to hang from wire or chain. Fully equipped with pull-chain switch, 6' cord and plug. Ready to plug in and use. All for 110-120 volt Alternating Current only.



Day-Light Lamp with Wing-Reflector and 2 20-watt lights (10" wide, 6" high, 24" long) . . \$13.95 ppd.

Day-Light Lamp with Wing-Reflector and 2 40-watt lights (12" wide, 7" high, 48" long) . . \$19.95 ppd.

Day-Light Lamp without Wing-Reflector, lights not included (5" wide, 2¾" high, 24" long, for 2 20-watt lights) \$8.75 ppd.

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Time-All Automatic Timer Switch . . \$11.95 ppd.

Quantity discounts for 3 or more items in this ad: 5% for 3, 10% for 6, 15% for 12. Mail your order. FREE with your order -- Illustrated 32-page catalog of EXTRA FREE GIFTS and unusual hard-to-find supplies!

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER
P. O. BOX 810, MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS

Nine Months - A Show Is Born

Ede Moch, St. Louis Show Chairman

And now it's over -- so soon! After weeks and months -- or was it years -- of preparation; then within a matter of hours it is only a memory. Memories -- pleasant ones -- why I can remember way back last

JULY when Virginia Zimmermann, Mildred Traubel, Neva Anderson and I were "summoned" to appear before the National representatives -- Ada, Alma, Ruth and Alethea -- who were in St. Louis starting preparations for our Eighth Annual Convention and Show. I can see us local gals standing outside their suite at the Chase Hotel, taking a last deep breath and donning our best smiles before pushing that fatal buzzer that announced our arrival. Then what-do-you-know; before the morning was over, our smiles were spontaneous, no longer manufactured -- our National officers were just plain all-around-gals!

We left those meetings feeling honored -- we had been assigned our positions -- but also feeling solemn and minute. Could we meet National's expectations? Could we surpass them? It was then Neva Anderson, staging chairman, and I, decided a beautiful and successful show was our ultimate goal; no energy would be spared, no job would require too much time, no detail would be too small. And so armed with those determinations, we proceeded into

AUGUST. Seemed early to start preparations for a show nine months hence, but start we did by Virginia and Mildred, co-chairmen of Convention, Neva and I sitting in our back yard one blistering hot day selecting the girls we considered best suited for the committee chairmen. Talent soared as high as the thermometer (103 degrees) that day and we went home satisfied with the fact that all eight groups (there are eleven of us now) were represented in our choice of chairmen.

Golly it was hot; maybe with this big job out of the way we could coast until it was cooler -- or so we thought. Ruth Carey scattered those wishful dreams amongst the clouds by informing us the schedule had to be in her hands by the end of August. Sohoooo, S.O.S. Adele Tretter, schedule chairman. Thus began the functioning of our first committee. Concurrently also began the volumes and volumes of correspondence between Ruth Carey and myself.

And now as the heat wave continued in all its fiery glory, we thought it would be pleasant -- in an air-conditioned room of course -- to introduce the chairmen and co-chairmen of Show, and to go over some of their specific duties. It was in this nice cool atmosphere that our theme "April in St. Louis" was suggested by Grace Wayman, publicity chairman. The chairmen and co-chairmen unanimously agreed it was an ideal

theme since practically any subject we chose could be bracketed under the title "April in St. Louis." Neva and I were delighted -- we had all of St. Louis around which to build our show, and here it was only

SEPTEMBER. Confidentially, did you ever hear of the woman who had so much to choose from, she didn't know what to select? That was Neva and I. We dreamed of the Jewel Box as our theme, the Zoo, the Statue of St. Louis, the Veiled Prophet Parade, April Showers, and a dozen other subjects, only to cast them aside.

With this pack of indefinite ideas, the Show bumped into

OCTOBER, and our first staging meeting. Neva, staging chairman, asked everyone who had attended a National African Violet Show to please come and offer advice and suggestions and ideas and plans. They came, but still no definite arrangement for the theme.

And all this while Grace Wayman as publicity chairman was plugging "April in St. Louis," "April in St. Louis," "April in St. Louis."

Better hurry cause here it was

NOVEMBER. Certainly it wasn't too soon for the chairmen to accept volunteers on their committees. We hinted it was better to choose now than be drafted later, and it worked! Names started coming in at this early date.

Neva and her committee were already getting bids on materials needed for staging, and

Oh what a thankful Thanksgiving it would be for us if we only knew how to represent the theme! We took a holiday and crept into

DECEMBER minus the theme. Then the Christmas parties began, which proved to be our deliverance. At one of them a shy girl hesitantly said she had several ideas for carrying out "April in St. Louis." Needless to say Neva and I met with her -- Ruth Penrod, later our theme chairman, the next week and found the spark we had lacked. What a good feeling! Now we could look

JANUARY straight in the eye. Neva and I met with Mr. Ross of the Chase Hotel, discussed the number of tables needed, the coverings, the floor plan, etc.

And always the correspondence with Ruth Carey, getting complete approval of all we did.

FEBRUARY just slipped in, we were so busy. By now we had staging meetings scheduled every two weeks until the "Big Event" in April. The theme committee met at least once a week.

Sometime during all this bustling

MARCH blew in; however our sails were set and we were riding high. Charlotte Schroeder, properties chairman, started accumulating.

Stella Wahnung, watering chairman, was practicing relieving parched violets.

Clem Demko, co-chairman of hospitality, began her long task of lining up over two hundred hostesses.

Now we were getting somewhere! Good thing because here was

APRIL in all glory and furor. The theme committee was madly designing, sawing, painting, etc. Of course we had tackled something too big for "mere" women, and our husbands had to be called in for the final assembling.

Staging knew exactly how to effect the tiers, how to cover and drape the tables; even where to pin the paper notes they had cut.

Bessie Salter, cleanup chairman, was affirming her cleanly duties.

The entry books arrived. Marie Nalley, entry chairman, and Tillie Miller, her co-chairman, really got busy and perfected a plan for accepting and returning the amateur exhibits.

After this, Ruth Nolte, classification chairman, and her committee met with entries to ac-

quaint themselves with the exact procedure to be followed.

Anita Ashner, ticket sales chairman, was busily making her tickets (general public), and Mae Champion, judges' clerks chairman, was assembling her clerks and informing them of their duties.

My we were busy -- sometimes as many as three meetings in one day! Then -- everything was lined up -- with a week in which to get the jitters! Did the phone ring that week ? ? ? WOW! As early as 7:30 in the morning and as late as 11:30 in the night.

Then the "fatal" day arrived; but as link went into link without so much as a click, we knew that our weeks of planning had not been in vain. Our goal was reached. Nine months of work and pleasure had produced a show we were proud of! Like any new parents, we anxiously threw open the doors so all might gaze upon and admire our efforts. And oh happy day of days ! ! ! You were as pleased as we -- the compliments came from everyone -- to everyone. Oh joy of joys!

And now as, tired and happy, we bask in the fellowship of our National officers, the teamwork of our local members, and the acquaintances of new friends, our memories tell us we were honored to be your servants -- such pleasant memories!

THE END

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OR ANY HARMFUL INGREDIENTS**

Roigina African Violet Plant Food is manufactured in capsule form for greater convenience. The ORGANIC contents are an essential food for African Violets. Part of the food is available at once. The balance is available as the plant uses it. This promotes growth, blossoms and intensifies color when used as directed.

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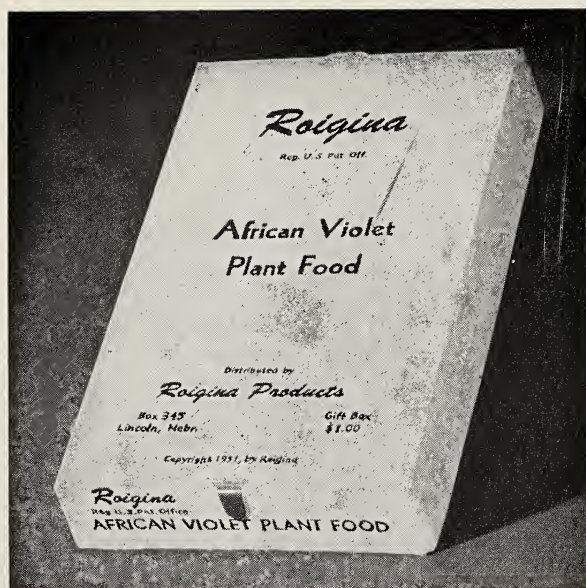
Free folder on care and culture of African Violets included.

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ROIGINA PRODUCTS

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1954 Executive Committee Meeting

The president, Mrs. E. G. Magill, called the 1954 Executive Committee of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., to order on April 21, 1954, at 10:00 a. m. in the Chase Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. The following members were present:

President -- Mrs. E. G. Magill
1st Vice-Pres. -- Mrs. H. W. Martin
2nd Vice-Pres. -- H. G. Harvey
Treasurer -- Mrs. Arthur Radtke
Rec. Secy. -- Mrs. James Carey
Mem. Secy. -- Mrs. George C. Mayer
Editor -- Mrs. Robert Wright

Mrs. Magill introduced Mrs. Charles Lambur who will serve as parliamentarian for the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and the following corrections were made, Page 3: Mrs. Radtke made a motion to appoint a committee to rewrite and revise Constitution and bring it up to date, the correction to read Mrs. Magill made the motion. Page 3: Mr. Neil Miller, chairman of research committee to read: chairman of registration committee.

Mr. H. G. Harvey recommended that a committee be appointed from the Executive Committee to cover registration to the Convention and allied subjects. Seconded by Mrs. Mayer. Motion carried. Mrs. Magill appointed Mr. Harvey, chairman, Mrs. H. W. Martin and Mrs. George Mayer were to serve with him.

The recording secretary read a letter from Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer of California, expressing some of her views on the revision of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Mrs. Arthur Radtke recommended that the revision of the By-Laws be postponed until the next annual business meeting and that the committee with legal advice reconsider same. Seconded by Mr. H. G. Harvey. Recommendation accepted.

Mrs. Arthur Radtke recommended that we have a finance and budget committee, to be appointed by the president. Seconded by Mrs. Mayer, with no objections it shall be done.

Mr. H. G. Harvey made a motion that the executive board recommend that the Silver Bowl Award offered by the First Saintpaulia Society of Nashville, Tennessee, for the most outstanding seedling or mutation be decided upon by the awards committee. Seconded by Mrs. Carey. No objections.

Mrs. Wright recommended that Mrs. Anna Layson be given a suitable award for her services to the Society. Seconded by Mrs. Martin. No objections.

It was recommended that a suitable certificate be given to paid life memberships. This certificate to be selected by the awards committee. No objections.

Mrs. Mary Mayer recommended that a president's pin be presented upon retirement from office. This to be selected by the awards committee. No objections.

It was recommended that the secretary's minutes and treasurer's report of the Society be published in the September issue of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., Magazine. No objections.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth G. Carey
Recording Secretary

1954 BOARD MEETING

The annual board meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was called to order by the president, Mrs. E. G. Magill, on April 21, 1954, at 1:00 p. m. in the Chase Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri.

The minutes of the 1953 board meeting were read by the secretary and the following correction was made: Page 3, Mr. Harvey made a motion that we offer \$10.00 for annual membership in the American Horticultural Society, should read the American Horticultural Council.

The secretary called the roll, the following members were present:

Pres. -- Mrs. E. G. Magill
1st Vice-Pres. -- Mrs. H. W. Martin
2nd Vice-Pres. -- Mr. H. G. Harvey
Treas. -- Mrs. Arthur Radtke
Rec. Secy. -- Mrs. James B. Carey
Mem. Secy. -- Mrs. George C. Mayer
Editor -- Mrs. Robert Wright

DIRECTORS:

Mr. William Carter
Mr. H. G. Harvey
Mrs. Alex Taylor
Mrs. Claude Greely
Mrs. Leonard Becker
Mrs. Constance Hansen
Mrs. Grace Rowe -- Affiliated Chapter Chm.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Nominating Chm. -- Mrs. Ferne Kellar
Boyce Edens Mem. Fund Chm. -- Mrs. Ralph Berst
Research Chm. -- Mr. Henry Peterson
Awards Chm. -- Mrs. Z. C. Layson

Representative to the American Horticultural Council -- Mr. Neil Miller
Mrs. Charles Lambur serving as parliamentarian

Mrs. Arthur Radtke, treasurer, gave her report which was filed with the secretary.

The minutes of the April 20, 1954, 10:00 a. m. Executive Committee meeting were read.

Mrs. Arthur Radtke recommended that we accept the recommendation from the Executive Committee that the revision of the By-Laws be postponed until the next annual meeting and that the committee with legal advice reconsider same. Seconded by Mr. Harvey. It was accepted.

Mrs. Radtke recommended that the Board of the Society accept the recommendation from the Executive Committee that the Society have a finance and budget committee, to be appointed by the president. Seconded by Mrs. Mayer. Recommendation accepted.

After a discussion on the report of the committee to cover registration to the Convention and allied subjects, Mr. Harvey made a motion that:

REGISTRATION:

Registration fee for entire Convention be \$5.00
Registration fee for one day be . . . 3.00
Registration fee for a single meeting be 1.50

Members of the African Violet Society only are eligible for registration. One registration admits both husband and wife when either is a member. All registrations include admission to the Annual Show.

DINNERS, LUNCHEONS, and BANQUETS:

Price for each dinner, luncheon and banquet is to be determined by the local committee. In all cases, the charge shall be per plate. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Greeley. Motion carried.

Mr. Harvey made a motion that the recommendation of the Silver Bowl Award to be given by the First Saintpaulia Society of Nashville, Tennessee, for the most outstanding seedling or mutation be decided upon by the awards committee. Seconded by Mrs. Carey. Motion passed.

Mrs. Wright made a motion that the recommendation to present Mrs. Layson a suitable award for her services to the Society be accepted. Mrs. Kellar seconded. Motion carried.

Mrs. Greeley moved that a suitable certificate be given to paid life memberships, the awards committee would select this certificate. Seconded by Mrs. Radtke. Motion carried.

Mrs. Mary Meyer made a motion that a president's pin be presented upon retirement from office, retro-active to all past presidents. This to be handled by the awards committee. Mr. Neil Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Roy Smith, convention finance chairman, reported on her committee.

THE FOLLOWING CHAIRMEN MADE REPORTS:

Show Preparation and Judging -- Mrs. James Carey
Boyce M. Eden's Memorial Fund -- read by secretary
Commercial Award -- read by secretary
Editor of African Violet Magazine by Mrs. Robert Wright
Affiliated Chapter -- read by secretary

Mr. Harvey moved that the Society accept the show preparation and judging report as read. Mrs. Arthur Radtke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Carter made a motion that the Eden's Memorial report be filed until perfected. Mrs. Kellar seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Harvey moved that the Society accept the report of the commercial award chairman. Mrs. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Mary Mayer submitted to the Board of Directors her resignation as membership secretary. Mrs. Nelle Berst moved that in order to comply with the By-Laws as set forth by the Society, the resignation be accepted with regrets and apologies. Seconded by Mrs. Taylor. Motion carried.

Mr. Harvey moved that we accept the publications report and that a stamping machine be purchased. Seconded by Mr. Neil Miller. Motion carried.

Mrs. Magill appointed Mrs. Robert Wright as membership secretary. Mr. Harvey moved that the appointment be accepted. Mr. Neil Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Harvey moved that the membership secretary be instructed to issue membership cards dated the first of the month following, in which the application is received. Seconded by Mrs. Nelle Berst. Motion carried.

Mr. Henry Peterson, research committee, read his report. Mrs. Constance Hansen moved that we grant \$1,500.00 to the research committee. Mrs. Ferne Kellar seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mrs. Arthur Radtke moved that we accept the research committee report. Mr. Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Mrs. Z. C. Layson, awards committee chairman, reported on the work of her committee. Mrs. Ferne Kellar moved that we accept the report as given. Seconded by Mrs. Robert Wright. Motion carried.

The Board Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., convened at 7:30 p. m., April 21, 1954. Mrs. E. G. Magill, President, called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Ferne Kellar moved that the annual operating budget of the treasurer be accepted at the discretion of the president. Seconded by Mrs. Hansen. Motion carried.

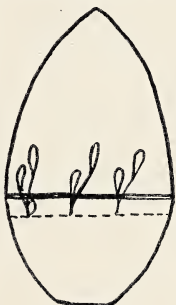
Mrs. Arthur Radtke moved that the Convention committee be allowed to work out plans and



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Complete seed-sowing kit with modernistic two-piece container, 5 inches across by 7½ inches high of clear plastic, through which the growth of the tiny seedlings may be easily observed, soil and drainage material, together with detailed instructions, and a package containing at least 200 of our fine hybrid seed. Postpaid complete for only \$2.00

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

OVER 300 VARIETIES
35¢ up, leaves 25¢, supplies

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VISITORS WELCOME CLOSED TUESDAYS
SOLD AT OUR VIOLET ROOMS ONLY

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Grows Better Plants Faster
In SOIL, SAND or WATER

Simply dissolve and water all your houseplants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs or lawn. Produces stronger plants, more and larger flowers and fruit. Excellent for starting seedlings, cuttings, transplants. Clean, odorless. Won't burn foliage or roots if used as directed. Contains all nutritional elements complete and balanced—plus vitamin B1—Instantly available. Results sure.

If your dealer can't supply you send \$1 for 1 lb. can postpaid. Makes 100 gallons

HYDROPONIC Chemical Co., Inc. Copley, O.



make a decision on the city for the 1956 Convention to be held. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kellar. Motion carried.

Mrs. Magill announced the names of Mrs. H. W. Martin and Mrs. A. E. Zimmerman be added to the Convention committee.

Mr. Neil Miller reported on the American Horticultural Council. Mr. Peterson moved that it be accepted. Mrs. Kellar seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Neil Miller made a motion that the Society join the American Horticultural Council at \$25.00 a year dues. Mrs. Ferne Kellar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Neil Miller reported on the work of the registration committee, and presented his resignation as chairman of the committee. Resignation accepted with regrets.

Mr. Neil Miller made a motion that he be empowered to communicate with Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer regarding the variety, history and evaluation project becoming activated. Seconded by Mrs. Kellar. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller moved that the Board action of 1953 of approval of establishment of duplication of notification procedure be rescinded. Mrs. Z. C. Layson seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Harvey moved that we accept Mr. Neil Miller's report. Seconded by Mr. Henry Peterson. Motion carried.

Mrs. Ferne Kellar, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the following report for the officers for the year 1955:

President -- Mrs. E. G. Magill, 707 S. Fourth Street, Aurora, Ill.

1st Vice-Pres. -- Mrs. H. W. Martin, 429 S. 41st Street, Omaha, Nebr.

2nd Vice-Pres. -- Mr. H. G. Harvey, 6600 Wright Road, Route 1, Dunwoody, Ga.

Rec. Secy. -- Mrs. James B. Carey, 706 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tenn.

Mem. Secy. -- Mrs. Mary Mayer, 1014 Forest Hills Avenue, Calumet City, Ill.

Corres. Secy. -- Mrs. James Jones, Box 180 Rt., Woodstock, Ill.

Treasurer -- Mrs. Arthur Radtke, P. O. Box 116, Madisonville Station, Cincinnati, Ohio

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mr. Evan Roberts, East Lansing, Mich.

Mr. Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, N. J.

Mrs. Pat Crowe, 5535 Meadowbrook Lane Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mrs. Edward Jones, 3560 French Road Minglewood, Beaumont, Tex.

Meeting recessed until 7:30 p. m. April 21, 1954 -- Wednesday.

Mr. Harvey moved that life memberships only pertain to individual members. Seconded by Mrs. Nelle Berst. Motion carried.

Mrs. Arthur Radtke moved that Affiliation dues should be \$5.00 as of January 1, 1955. Mrs. Ferne Kellar seconded the motion, it was rejected.

Mrs. Magill requested that the nominating committee present another nominee for president, for 1955.

Mrs. Magill announced the following nominating committee for 1955:

Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Chairman
Mrs. Constance Hansen
Mrs. Alex Taylor
Mrs. Merle Hardy
Mr. Floyd Johnson

Mrs. Magill announced the finance committee as follows:

Mrs. Roy Smith, 28 Holly Drive, Webster Groves, Mo. -- Chairman
Mrs. Arthur Radtke
Mr. H. G. Harvey

Mrs. Nelle Berst moved that we adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Kellar. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth G. Carey
Recording Secretary

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1954 BUSINESS MEETING

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

9:30 a. m., Friday, April 23, 1954

CHASE HOTEL -- ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The Eighth Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was held on Friday, 9:30 a. m., April 23, 1954, at the Chase Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. The president, Mrs. E. G. Magill, called the meeting to order.

The secretary read the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting, Mrs. S. C. Hurley, Downers Grove, Illinois, made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read. Mrs. Harness of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, gave her report. Mrs. Ralph Berst, Dayton, Ohio, made a motion that the report of the treasurer be accepted and filed with the secretary. Mrs. Edmondson, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mrs. Ferne Kellar, nominating committee chairman, gave the report of her committee as follows:

President -- Mr. Floyd Johnson, Canandaigua, N. Y.
1st Vice-Pres. -- Mrs. H. W. Martin, Omaha, Nebr.
2nd Vice-Pres. -- Mr. H. G. Harvey
Dunwoody, Ga.
Rec. Secy. -- Mrs. James B. Carey
Fountain City, Tenn.

SUPPLIES for AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

PLASTIC LABELS

Miller's GREENPLAST 110 for \$1.00

INSECTICIDES

NNOR 6-oz. \$1.35
Sodium Selenate 12 caps \$1.00
Lindane 1-lb. \$1.10
Soilene 8-oz. \$1.00
Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.

FUNGICIDES

Fermate, Arasan, Anti-Damp, Others.

FERTILIZERS

Hyponex, Electra, NuPhosk, Plant Marvel. Others.

FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Limestone Chips, Peat Moss, Superphosphate.

SPONGE-ROK ½ bu. \$2.75 ppd.

GLASS WICKING

All sizes and lengths.

OTHER ITEMS

Metal foil, Vitamin B₁, pots, (clay and plastic), vermiculite, Rootone, plate glass, sprayers, etc.

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The Newest of the New and Best of the Old
Plants and Leaves

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

Plants, leaves and rooted cuttings
The New and Best of the older varieties
Rex begonias and other begonias
-- PRICES REASONABLE --
Stamp for list

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VIOLET'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

We have a lovely setting for our old and newest plants.

LEAVES AND ALL SIZE PLANTS

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ROCHESTER 13, N. Y.

Corres. Secy. -- Mrs. James Jones
 Woodstock, Ill.
 Mem. Secy. -- Mrs. George Mayer, Calumet
 City, Ill.
 Treasurer, -- Mrs. Arthur Radtke
 Cincinnati, Ohio

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS
 AND DISBURSEMENTS
 AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
 Year ended December 31, 1953

RECEIPTS	
Membership dues	\$35,091.01
Sale of advertising space	5,461.85
Convention receipts	1,174.56
Boyce M. Eden Fund contributions	538.50
Research contributions	446.00
Sale of magazine binders	445.50
Sale of past issues of magazine	442.00
Miscellaneous	44.70
	\$43,642.62

DISBURSEMENTS	
Publishing and mailing magazine	\$26,853.53
Postage	2,885.60
Stationery and supplies	2,049.52
Research:	
University of Illinois	\$1,750.00
Purdue University	250.00
Addressing machine and equipment	1,665.08
Convention expenses	1,484.47
Long distance telephone	1,145.08
Clerical services	901.03
Purchase of magazine binders	
for resale	595.50
Registration committee	351.60
Traveling expenses	317.19
Auditing services	100.00
Refunds of membership dues	53.75
Treasurer's surety bond	
(1953 and 1954)	50.00
Slide library	45.03
Bank service fees	30.73
Dues and subscriptions	24.00
Miscellaneous	50.75
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	\$3,039.76

SUMMARY OF CASH TRANSACTIONS	
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.	
Period from December 2, 1952, to December 31, 1953	
Cash on deposit in Fulton National Bank, Atlanta, Georgia, at December 2, 1952 (transferred to The Central Trust Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, during February, 1953)	\$16,000.09
Deposits for the period from December 2, 1952, to December 31, 1952	232.50
Balance at January 1, 1953	\$16,232.59
Excess of receipts over disbursements for the year ended December 31, 1953 (as shown by schedule)	3,039.76
Cash on deposit in The Central Trust Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, at December 31, 1953	\$19,272.35
Cash fund in the custody of Mrs. Robert Wright \$	200.00

RECONCILEMENT OF BANK BALANCE	
Balance as shown by bank statement at December 31, 1953	\$19,598.49
Less outstanding checks:	

Payee	Check No.	Amt.
Dec. 16, 1953		
Mrs. Park Jackson	1651	\$.50
Dec. 16, 1953		
Postmaster -- Madisonville Stn.	1652	2.25
Dec. 22, 1953		
Mrs. Samuel Rowe	1654	5.00
Dec. 22, 1953		
Mrs. Robert Wright	1655	293.39
Dec. 23, 1953		
Kenneth Albers	1656	25.00
Balance per records at December 31, 1953		\$19,272.35
THE END		

PITTSBURGH TEACHERS SCHOOL

A school will be held in Pittsburgh on Thursday, 9:00 a. m. -- 12:00 noon, April 14, 1955, for the purpose of qualifying judging school teachers. Those eligible to attend are teachers already qualified, and those judges who made a grade of ninety or above on their judging school examination.

Registration blank in December Magazine.

THE END

DIRECTORS:

Mr. Evan Roberts, East Lansing, Mich.
 Mr. Neil Miller, Penns Grove, N. J.
 Mrs. Pat Crowe, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 Mrs. Edward Jones, Beaumont, Texas

Mrs. Alice Taylor presented the name of Mrs. E. G. Magill as president, Mr. Baxter seconded the motion. Mrs. Magill declined the nomination.

Mrs. Ward Richter of Webster Groves, Missouri, made a motion that we accept the report of the nominating committee as read, the motion was seconded by Mrs. Bissell. Motion carried.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, chairman of the resolution committee, gave her report. Mrs. Rene Edmundson of East McKeesport, Pennsylvania, moved that we accept the report, seconded by Mrs. Z. C. Layson. Motion carried.

Mrs. King, St. Louis, Missouri, moved that we adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Dougherty, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ruth G. Carey
 Recording Secretary

THE END

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 for
 AFRICAN VIOLETS

-- ANTROL --

To protect against or kill Mealy Bugs, Mites, Aphids, Exposed Thrips, White Flies.

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WAKING TIME

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tenn.

An amusing incident which took place at the Chase in St. Louis during the African Violet Convention was as follows:

A certain little Southerner was sharing a room with one of her club Pigeon members from the North . . . the Ohioan jumped out of bed early Friday morning, dressed, and came along to wake the Tennessean. First thing she said to her sleepy eyed friend was: Do you know that the Grand Award was . . . and the drowsy answer came "O, yes, FIFTY DOLLARS." So, the joke went the rounds of the Convention.

Now since I am the little Tennessean I want to defend myself and explain a few things that I must have been dreaming about. First thing we all know that EMPEROR WILHELM variety (a luscious thing of beauty) did get the Silver

Cup Award, and second thing is that the new varieties were all I could think clearly about . . . I had wistfully gazed upon each and every violet in the Show the night before and those double pinks were dancing through my mind like pink elephants and they just got bigger and bigger -- Snow Fairy was flitting about, Black Ruby was there with Philadelphia Belle and Star Amethyst was more than a star in my dreams -- I was planning to hitch a wagon to it. I wondered how many people would remember Minnetonka or Rochester and a lot of other unusual names, and I finally came down out of my dream clouds to find that time was awasting and I must rush to get down stairs to view the lovelies again and again as many times as I could before leaving St. Louis and a grand APRIL IN ST. LOUIS.

THE END

Orlyt Aluminum Greenhouse

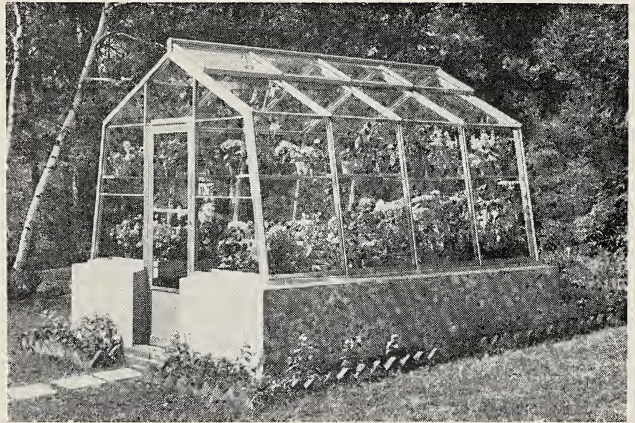
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BEAUTIFUL, BRIGHT and built for permanency. The new Orlyt greenhouse is aluminum, alloyed for greatest strength and resistance to corrosion. Maintenance-free. Never needs paint. Easy-to-put-up any time, anywhere with stainless steel and aluminum bolts and screws. The 10 by 11 ft. greenhouse pictured is \$595. Other models, including lean-to greenhouses, priced from \$339.



No money down, 3 years to pay. Write for fascinating Catalog No. 59 that tells all about it.

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Irvington, N. Y.

Des Plaines, Ill.



Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd St.
Perry, Iowa

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

ALHAMBRA CALIFORNIA

The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the African Violet Society held their annual African violet display on April 4, 1954, in Alhambra, California.

At the May meeting the following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. H. E. Nagel
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. A. Kindrick
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. J. A. Mathews
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. S. E. Doran
Treasurer,	Mrs. F. M. Booneville

Installation of officers was held at a pot luck luncheon in June, at which time the club adjourns for the summer. The new officers will assume office in September.

NORTHERN HILLS SOCIETY SHOW

May 7th and May 8th were the dates chosen by the Northern Hills African Violet Society, to hold its first competitive show. The theme was "Violets in Story-book Land," and was carried out by exhibits of Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Poor Woman that lived in a Shoe and a Magic Pool. Violets were the characters and their blossoms were floated in a pool filled with water, around which were their cousins -- the gloxinias, isolomas and episcias.

There were two hundred and fifty plants entered in competition -- one hundred and thirty-three being of different varieties. These were displayed on steps, and were lighted with fluorescent lights.

Kellars Holly, measuring twenty-four inches across, won the tri-color ribbon for Queen of the Show. Mrs. Ethel Hagen won the Sweepstakes Award with seventeen blue ribbons. Mrs. Phyllis Archibald was runner-up and Mrs. Viola Herrmann a close third. Mrs. G. Hattendorf won a red ribbon for her collection of 3-5 unnamed plants.

Many people were delighted by the various displays and took snapshots -- colored as well as black and white prints. The one entitled "Magic Pool," that is enclosed for publication in the National Magazine is by Mr. Wm. Jansen, Jr.

RANTOUL ILLINOIS

The Rantoul African Violet Club of Rantoul, Illinois, elected the following officers for 1954 at their January meeting:

President,	Mrs. H. L. Goemplar
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Paul Seaton
Secretary,	Mrs. Maurice Smith
Treasurer,	Mrs. Garneth Waespe

Meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the members' homes. Membership now totals sixteen.

MOUNT HOLLY NEW JERSEY

The Rancocas African Violet Club of Mt. Holly, New Jersey, have elected the following officers for 1954:

President,	Mrs. E. F. Blausey
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Frank Crowell
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Roy Eckert
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Robert Stevenson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Albert Steitz

The monthly meeting date had been changed to the first Tuesday of the month. No regular meetings will be held during the summer months, various trips are planned to visit the homes of violet growers.

Members are planning to take part in the Burlington County Farm Fair Flower Show on July 30, 1954.

NASHVILLE TENNESSEE

The Davidson County Council of African Violet Clubs met at the Hermitage Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee, on March 17, 1954, electing the following officers for the year:

President,	Mrs. Frank Staley
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Sam Nichols
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. K. B. Everly
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Edward Taylor
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. T. Gill

These officers are members of the following clubs in the order as named; Melrose, Nashville, Woodbine, First Saintpaulia and Inglewood.

The Davidson County Council represents eight African Violet Clubs in the area. Other clubs affiliated with the council but not having officers this year are: Donelson, Wilson and Woodmont.

DOWNERS GROVE ILLINOIS

The Sunrise African Violet Society of Downers Grove, Illinois, elected the following officers:

President,	Mrs. Victoria Lauing
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Sophia Nuccio
Secretary,	Mrs. Phillis Hyde
Treasurer,	Mrs. Rose Gregonis

KNOXVILLE TENNESSEE

On March 24, 1954, at the Tennessee Valley African Violet Club of Knoxville, Tennessee, Mrs. Hugh Day installed the following officers to serve for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Joseph B. Harris
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. J. Cowart
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. B. Copeland
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. W. Q. Fowler
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Nellie Lindamood
Treasurer,	Mrs. Lloyd Johnson
Asst. Treas.,	Mrs. J. A. Baird
Historian,	Mrs. L. H. Erwin
Custodian,	Mrs. Thomas Parker

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN

The Milwaukee County African Violet Society, at their monthly meeting on May 14 elected the following officers for the 1954-55 season:

President,	Mrs. George Truran
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harvey Bollhagen
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. George M. Wallace, Jr.
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Walter Rittel
Treasurer,	Mrs. Jeseeph Stephens

LANSING MICHIGAN

At their March meeting the Lansing Saintpaulia Society of Lansing, Michigan, elected the following officers:

President,	Mrs. Walter Blake
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harold Van Sickle
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harold Jipson
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. O. Veatch
Secretary,	Mrs. H. S. Ives

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in the homes of the members. At the May meeting the members exchanged leaves and will report on their progress in the fall. They closed their year with a picnic at their June meeting.

Recently the club entertained the other five clubs of the Tri-Cities at a joint meeting. A horticultural sound movie was shown as well as colored slides taken at the local shows and also the St. Louis Convention. A report of the new varieties of violets shown at the St. Louis Convention completed the evening's entertainment.

The projects of the club are financed by periodical white elephant sales, sales of plants, silent auctions, birthday offerings and also by rental fees for the lending library of books on flowers, gardening and violet books and magazines owned by the club.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the homes of the members, and the charter was closed with a membership of twelve.



Above: Mrs. Hahn, Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Day at the installation of the new officers of the Tennessee Valley African Violet Club. Mrs. Harris was installed as president at a lovely tea given in honor of the incoming officers and chairman at the March meeting of the club.

The following officers were re-elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. C. O. Bowers
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harold Forsberg
Secy. and Treas.	Mrs. John Hanlon

The following are the newly elected officers of the Sacramento Saintpaulia Society for the year beginning June 1, 1954:

President,	Mrs. W. F. Rose
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. F. J. Pribble
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. J. Cameron
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. R. E. Hertel
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. W. H. Steinhaus

DUNKIRK and FREDONIA NEW YORK

The Dunkirk-Fredonia African Violet Society of Dunkirk and Fredonia, New York, celebrated their first anniversary on May 4, 1954, with thirteen members and guests present at a dinner. The table was decorated with an anniversary cake surrounded by various varieties of violet plants. Each one present received a violet corsage and violet handkerchief.

At the conclusion of the dinner the program was presented. Mrs. Howard George read two poems entitled "African Violet" and "African Violet Widower." Miss Elizabeth Seitz read the origin of the African violet. Mrs. Clayton Crooks, historian, read the progress of the club during the past year.

The president, Mrs. William Annesley, was presented a gift as was Mrs. Charles Weinheimer who organized the society.



Above: Mrs. Roy Bowdich, Mrs. Esther McCloud and Mrs. Lloyd Johnson of the Tennessee Valley African Violet Club, pictured at the club's exhibit last fall.

FANWOOD NEW JERSEY

On September 24, 1953, a group of women met at the Fanwood Library in Fanwood, New Jersey, to form the Union County Chapter of the African Violet Society. Officers were elected, Constitution and By-laws were drawn up and application for membership forwarded to the National Society.

Twenty members were expected at the first meeting, but thirty-two came so the meeting place was changed to the Parish House, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. More members were taken in at each meeting and by popular demand the group has sponsored an evening group. Membership now stands at fifty-two in the day group and eleven in the night group, most of whom are

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AFRICAN VIOLETS SUPPLIES
ROOTED LEAVES

Quality plants at reasonable prices

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June through November only

National members. The day meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p. m. at the above address and the evening meetings are held in the members' homes on the fourth Tuesday at 8:00 p. m. All National members visiting in this area are cordially invited to attend either meeting.

Officers elected in May, 1954, for a two year period are:

President,
1st Vice-Pres.,
2nd Vice-Pres.,
Secretary,
Treasurer,

Mrs. A. B. Lawrence
Mrs. Alex Mettlach
Mrs. John Couser
Mrs. E. P. Klotz
Mrs. Herbert Morris

On June 10, 1954, the club sponsored a one day congress of the officers and chairmen of the following northern and central New Jersey chapters: Bergen County, African Violet Club of Trenton, Rancocas Valley, Tri-County and Hightstown.

DECORAH IOWA

The Decorah African Violet Club of Decorah, Iowa, held their May meeting on May 4, 1954, at the home of Sylvia Kneeskern, at which time they invited the Decorah Garden Club as guests, to hear Mrs. Herbert H. Stevens of Minneapolis, Minnesota, give a most instructive and entertaining program of colored slides and an accompanying talk on African violets.

The club entertained Mrs. Stevens and their honorary member, Mrs. L. H. Appleman, at noon luncheon at the home of the president, Mrs. Lillian Cornell.

DALLAS TEXAS

Because of the great interest shown in the culture of African violets in Dallas, especially since the educational exhibit in the Garden Center Flower Show of 1953, a group of enthusiastic growers got together recently and formed the First African Violet Society of Dallas.

They contacted other African violet growers, invited them to join, and soon had twenty-one members -- four short of the closed membership of twenty-five.

Our first organization meeting was held in the home of Mrs. J. W. Hofmann in January, one of the coldest days we had experienced. There were eleven persons who ventured out on the icy-snow covered streets for this meeting. A lovely luncheon was served. The centerpiece for the table was African violets combined with lavender English heather.

In February we met with Mrs. E. G. Boyd. Mrs. Hofmann gave a most interesting talk on propagation of plants and showed us how to transplant the violets.

In April we met at the home of Mrs. Edward E. Bone, 2824 Rosedale, and elected a slate of officers.

Mrs. J. W. Hofmann, who was active in organizing the society, was named president. Mrs. E. G. Boyd was elected first vice-president; Mrs. V. V. Waite, second vice-president; Mrs. Kenneth Foree, Jr., secretary; Mrs. L. Clyde Williams, treasurer; Mrs. Bone, corresponding secretary.

The requirement for membership is the ownership of ten African violet plants and a home to entertain the members.

Members exhibited fifty plants in the recent Dallas Garden Center Flower Show.

Affiliation with the National African Violet Society of America, Inc., is one hundred per cent membership.

Object of the society is to learn of the development and improvements in the culture of African violets and to keep abreast of new varieties as they appear.

Already the society is contemplating a show. Members have started grooming their plants for it.

Another plan is to have a judging school on the study of African violets so as to have enough judges in this locality.

Meetings will be held in the homes of members the third Thursday of the month for luncheon, with a business meeting afterwards and programs giving information on the culture of the plants.

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

The Rainbow Chapter of the African Violet Society of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, celebrated its second birthday at the January meeting with a birthday cake and party.

Election of officers was held in February and the following officers were elected for the coming year to take office in June, 1954:

President,	Mrs. Donald Ottenweller
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Eric Hoppe
Secretary,	Mrs. A. F. Fisher
Treasurer,	Mrs. Maurice Whitacre

DAVENPORT IOWA

The Mississippi Valley African Violet Club of Davenport, Iowa, celebrated its first birthday with a dinner at the May meeting. A beautifully decorated dinner table featured a birthday cake and violet corsages for each member. Reviews of the year's activities were given by each committee chairman and all officers were re-elected for another year.

The club has participated in two African violet shows, namely the Davenport, Iowa, Show in the Municipal Art Gallery, and the Rock Island, Illinois Show at Blackhawk State Park. A majority of the members attended both the St. Louis Convention and the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Show.



Above: Mrs. J. W. Hofmann, left, was elected president of the newly formed First African Violet Society of Dallas at a recent meeting at the home of Mrs. Edward E. Bone, corresponding secretary, second from the left. Mrs. L. Clyde Williams, seated at Mrs. Bone's right is treasurer, and at extreme right, is Mrs. E. G. Boyd, first vice-president.

HAMMOND INDIANA

On October 27, 1953, at the regular meeting of the First African Violet Society of Hammond, Indiana, the following officers were installed:

President,	Mrs. Edwin Newquist
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Russell Lewallen
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. W. P. Thompson
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Louis Graves
Treasurer,	Mrs. Neil McNeil

The club meets every fourth Tuesday of the month and has a membership of thirty-five.

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with beautiful
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Floradora *Finlandia*
Blue Ridge *Lilac Time*
Bavaria

FLORADORA. Exquisite lively rose orchid with purple overcasts. Large round fringed and ruffled blooms.

FINLANDIA. Midnight purple, fringed blossoms on very glossy dark bronzy foliage.

BLUE RIDGE. Blossoms resemble blue waves and ripples with darker shadows. Quilted glistening leaves.

LILAC TIME. Lovely lavender ruffled blooms shaded orchid. As gay as spring-time.

BAVARIA. A rich sky blue, the blossoms fairly sparkle with a distinct sugary white edge. Shiny quilted leaves.

Each \$2.00, three for \$5.00. Plus 50¢ for shipping per order.



Pink Wonder, Holly, White Madonna, \$2.50
 All three \$6.50

All Aglow, Painted Girl, Carmen, \$1.25; 3 --
 \$3.25. Plus 50¢ for shipping per order.

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 From 9 till 6 p. m.

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 ONE FREE with THREE at Greenhouse



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GREENVILLE OHIO

The Treaty Towne African Violet Society of Greenville, Ohio, elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Ada Aydelott
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Florence McFarland
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Wilma Rentz
Asst. Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Estelle Brelsford
Treasurer,	Mrs. Edith Witwer
Corres. Secy.	Miss Amelia Meyer

MOLINE ILLINOIS

The Moline African Violet Society of Moline, Illinois, was organized April 20, 1953.

On March 21, this year, the club participated in the African violet exhibit held at the Watchtower Inn, Blackhawk State Park, sponsored by the Rock Island, Illinois, Chapter.

Our members exhibited eighty-five varieties. The table was tiered and a lovely giraffe planter owned by the president, Mrs. Arthur Petrie, was used for the central point of interest, while a small Maypole placed at each end of the table added to its attractiveness. All plants were in foil wrapped pots with silver doilies forming collars to support the leaves.

We again exhibited plants on March 27 at the violet show in Davenport, Iowa, sponsored by the Davenport Chapters.

During the year, the club members have distributed violet plants and garden magazines to interested patients in the Veterans Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa.

Election of officers was held at the monthly meeting on March 17 and the following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Arthur Petrie
Vice-Pres. and Historian,	Mrs. Elmer Sauer
Secy. and Treas.,	Mrs. Harry Gegenheimer

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month.

LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS

The Little Rock African Violet Society of Little Rock, Arkansas, has just completed a most successful year and has elected the following officers, who will be installed at a luncheon, held on the lawn of the country home of Mrs. P. V. Burton.

Mrs. W. J. Lawhon will install the officers.

President.,	Mrs. S. R. Jackman
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. E. Hallmann
Secretary,	Mrs. Val Balsam
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. V. Moore
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. H. C. Thompson



Pictured above are the new officers of the Chattanooga, Tennessee, African Violet Society. Installed at a very lovely spring luncheon. Seated left to right are, Mrs. Paul O. Gillespie, president; Mrs. John F. Strobel, first vice-president; Mrs. Sue S. Watson, second vice-president and Mrs. George Martin, third vice-president. Standing left to right are Mrs. N. Rowe Burgner, recording secretary; Mrs. Harvey Camp, treasurer; Mrs. Horace Humphreys, historian; Mrs. C. K. Flagg, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Charles Herman, poet and Mrs. Trotter.

DES MOINES IOWA

The Des Moines African Violet Club of Des Moines, Iowa, met on April 6, 1954, at the home of Mrs. John Ewing.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Earl Williams
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Nelle Churchill
Secretary,	Mrs. Leo R. Brown
Treasurer,	Mrs. Glenn Petersen

The club meets the first Tuesday of the month for a dessert luncheon in the members' homes.

JUDGING SCHOOLS

The African Violet Society of Bay County, Panama City, Florida, will hold a Judging School October 12th. Chairman -- Mrs. A. W. Aldridge, 1426 W. 11th St., Panama City, Florida.

A school will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, by the chapter there. Chairman -- Mrs. R. E. Hagen, 416 Lofton Road, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia. Anyone desiring to take the course, please contact the chairman of either of these societies.

CONVENTION WINNERS

Ready now at the greenhouse only, our three introductions which were prize winners at the St. Louis National African Violet Society Convention:

GRENADIER—

Orchid Dupont double. Compact plant, large prolific bloom.

CALUMET BEACON—

A sport from Azure Beauty. Round spooned foliage, large variegated double bloom.

SPRINGTIME—

Sparkling white edge on pale lavender bloom, with edge of bloom incurved. Different and distinctive.

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AFRICAN VIOLET DISPLAY AND TEA

Sept. 25 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Sept. 26 12:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

COMMUNITY HALL

GALENA, ILLINOIS

Donation

Adults \$.50

Children \$.25

(includes refreshments)

MEMBER'S HANDBOOK 1955

If we have your name or address incorrectly listed or mis-spelled please let us hear from you. If you have written to us PLEASE write us again -- by December 1, 1954, so that we may correct all errors if possible and double check those corrected this year.

The files are closed as of December 31, 1954 and the Member's Handbook is compiled from the paid up list as of that date. Members' names whose dues are not due until January 1, 1955 will be in the Handbook. Names of new members who join after December 30, 1954, will not be in the Handbook until the following year.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLET CULTURE

Mary MacKenzie, Chicago, Ill.

A CROWN ROT CASE HISTORY

A forlorn, little wilted plant was brought in, so destroyed with crown rot that it fell apart, the leaves in one hand, the roots in the other when it was examined. The plant certainly merited throwing out. But it had been a gift, indirectly from a person killed in an airplane accident -- a precious thing to be preserved if possible. So work was begun on it.

The heavy end of the stem was thoroughly cleaned up, and the lower leaves were taken off to help balance the lack of roots. It was floated in tepid water for forty-eight hours until it was thoroughly crisp again. Then it was placed in a small tumbler, which supported the leaves, and the butt end a little below water level. In two weeks it had put out roots and was placed in a rooting mixture of vermiculite and peat moss with charcoal, and supported with sticks to keep it from wobbling. It was fed once a week.

However, the little plant did not thrive. Some days it was wilted, others less so. Its life hung in the balance. It had been so badly starved through lack of roots and inadequate feeding that it just couldn't get itself started.

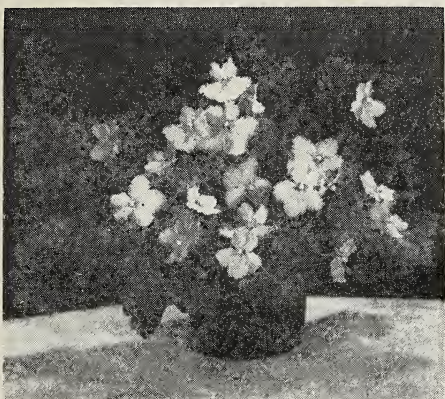
Plants can be fed through their leaves as well as by roots. Since this plant had few roots it was decided to feed it through the leaves. Hyponex was chosen because it is primarily a root growing fertilizer with a formula of 7-6-19. Potash is the nineteen in the formula. It is the root feeding part of the fertilizer. A solution was made of one-fourth teaspoon to a quart of water and the leaves sprayed once a week. Almost at once the plant began to pick up and the improvement continued until the plant was sending out new growth.

THE END

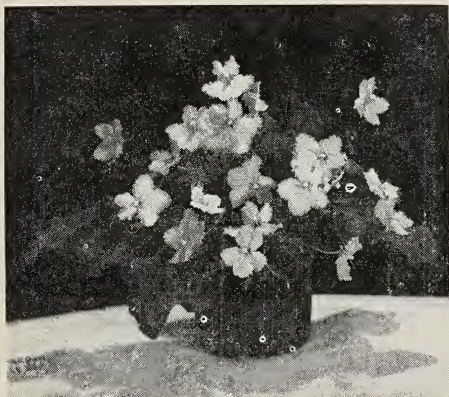
DISCOURAGED WITH YOUR PLANT FOOD?

Laura Morris, St. Michaels, Md.

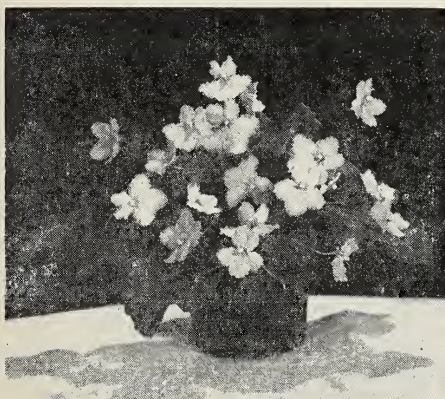
In the past I have noticed so many people, like myself, have become discouraged with the use of manures as plant food for their violets -- it's those pesky little black flies! For a hint to some, I have changed over to the use of the commercial foods, supplemented with powdered milk. Ever tried it? My violets seem to thrive on this occasional change of diet. Maybe they, too, get tired of the same menu every day. Powdered milk seems to be a welcome change.



PINK FRINGETTE



PINK FRINGETTE



PINK FRINGETTE

Introducing . . .

Fischer's

Pink Fringette

Here is the long-awaited addition to our famous "Fringette" series. "Pink Fringette" is another Fischer First . . . a truly beautiful new variety with lovely pink flowers -- a bright, clear pink -- delicately ruffled. Foliage is fringed and reddened below. A free-flowering plant, "Pink Fringette" is one of the finest "Fringettes" that we have ever introduced.

Order now to insure receipt early Spring . . . \$2.50

SPECIAL FALL OFFER

Free to you -- this Fall only -- a "Blue Buttercup" violet with any \$5 purchase from the listing below. "Blue Buttercup" is a unique light blue violet with pansy-like flowers and scalloped foliage. Reg. \$2 value -- always has been in short supply.

Silver Lining -- blue Dbl. Geneva	\$2.50
Edna Fischer -- red Dbl. Geneva	\$2.50
Minuet -- mauve fringed	\$2.00
Blue Reflection -- light blue fringed	\$2.00
Starglow -- fine white fringed	\$2.00
Seashell -- giant mauve	\$1.50
Eclipse -- red Fringed-Geneva	\$2.00
White Caps -- blue Fringed-Geneva	\$2.00
Cinderella -- ruffled blue tu-tone	\$1.50
Fancy Frances -- dark blue pansy-type	\$1.50

See our lovely catalogue for complete descriptions

FREE COLOR FOLDER AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Remit with orders please -- orders \$6.00 or over, postpaid. Under add 25¢ per plant mailing.

Fischer . . . Greenhouses

LINWOOD

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NEW JERSEY



PINK FRINGETTE

FALL SPECIALS OF THE FINEST AFRICAN VIOLETS AND EPISCIAS GROWN FOR YOU AT TINARI'S GREENHOUSES

*TINARI'S ALL-STAR FALL INTRODUCTIONS

Florentine -- Large exotic airy blue fringed blossom \$1.50 ea.

Valencia -- Airy lacy soft lav. blue flower \$1.25 ea.

Wild Girl -- Grotei seedling trailing type, blue flower, fancy deeply cut girl leaf \$1.25 ea.

White Lace -- Pure white cupped fringed blossom, Amazon type fringed leaf. \$1.00 ea.

Amazon Pink Luster -- Amazon type of our popular Pink Luster . . . \$1.25 ea.

EXOTIC NEW COLLECTOR VARIETIES . . . \$1.25 each.

CLEMENTINE
WILD GIRL
AMAZON RED KING

VALENCIA
AMAZON PINK LUSTER

CHRISTINA
GENEVA GIRL

LOWER FALL PRICES ON RECENT INTRODUCTIONS . . . \$1.00 each.

AMAZON SUNRISE
AMAZON VIOLET BEAUTY
FRILLED DuPONT

PANSY
PINK WONDER
LADY GENEVA SUPREME

RUBY GIRL
RUFFLED QUEEN
WHITE LACE

POPULAR VARIETIES OF LASTING BEAUTY . . . 75¢ each.

PHILADELPHIA BELLE
AMERICA
AZURE BEAUTY
BLACK FRINGE
BLUE CHARM
BLUE FLUTE
BLUE KNIGHT
DARK BEAUTY
DOUBLE ROSE
DOUBLE FRINGED WHITE
FANTASY

FRILLED BLUE DELIGHT
FROSTY
GLAMOUR BOY
GROTEI
GIANT BI-COLOR
HOLLY
INNOCENCE
PINK ATTRACTION
NAVY BOUQUET
NEPTUNE
OHIO BRIDE

PAINTED GIRL
SUNRISE
SUGAR PLUM GIRL
STAR GIRL
STAR AMETHYST
SNOW PRINCE
SAILOR'S DELIGHT
RUFFLED BEAUTY
RUBY BOUQUET
PURITY
PINK SHOCKING

EPISCIA coccinea, cupreata, lilacina (red flower), splendens, viridifolia, Silver Sheen. 75¢ each

Episcia lilacina (blue flower) bronze leaf. \$1.25 each

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PLEASE INCLUDE 75¢ POSTAL CHARGES ON ALL PLANT ORDERS

All plants shipped from our greenhouses are well established in 2" clay pots, 3" to 5" high. Healthy clean stock, many plants in bud and bloom. Order early while ideal weather conditions prevail.

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Rooting Powder -- 35¢ pkg. Ppd.

Liqua Vita -- 8 oz. bottle 75¢ Ppd.

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6 oz. \$1.35 Ppd.

STRAWBERRY JAR -- Ideal to grow African violets or Episcias. Imported Italian pottery to holds 7 plants. Natural rustic pottery color. \$7.50 ea. Ppd.



FREE OFFER — This coupon entitles you to one free Episcia or African violet with any \$10.00 mail order received before November 15. (Our variety choice.) Please check item wanted.

☐ African violet

☐ Episcia

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African Violet

M A G A Z I N E

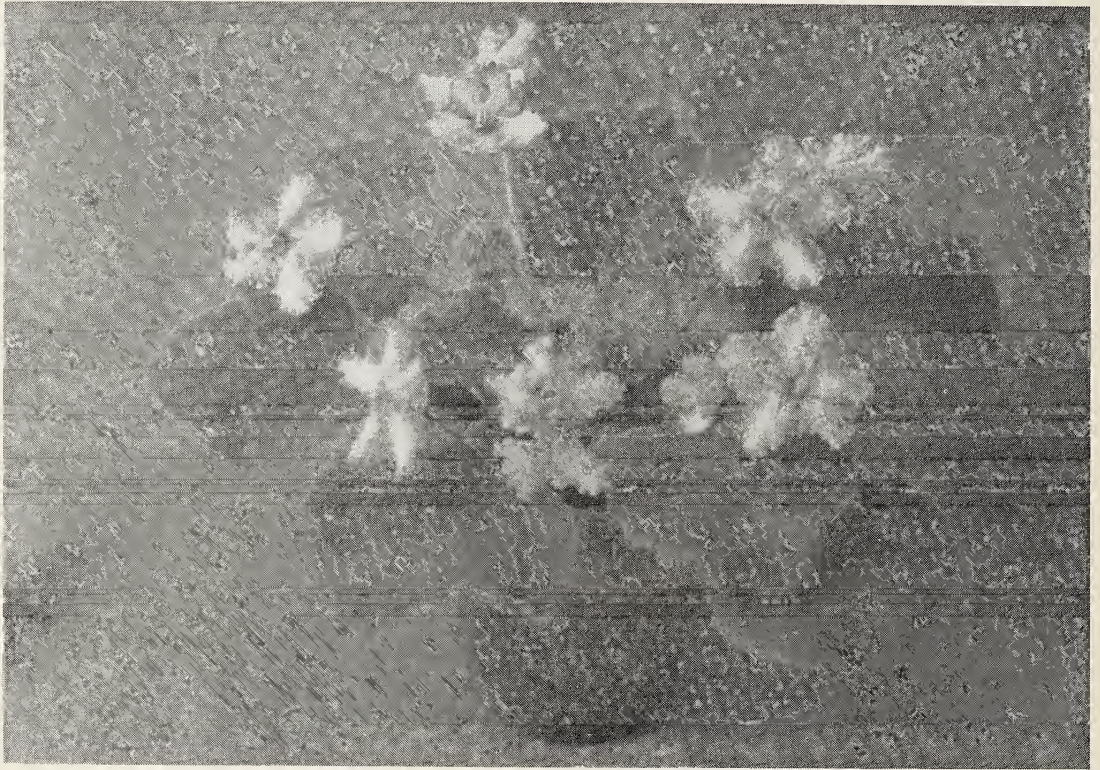
DECEMBER 1954

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 2



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO OUR MANY, MANY PATRONS

INTRODUCING! Angel Lace



The Sensational New Type of Du Pont. Very heavy large white blooms with a lovely lilac blue fringed edge, on Du Pont foliage. Blooms are held well above the foliage on strong stems and are in clusters of 3 to 6 to the stem. A lovely compact type of Du Pont, yet has the freedom of center growth that is so essential. This plant developed by Mr. Hugh Eyerdorn, along with many, many other lovely varieties to come.

This plant will be ready for release to our Dealers sometime in late Summer of 1955. Please do not write us regarding it previous to July 15. Our mail is extremely heavy and it would put an additional burden upon us that we cannot accommodate. Ask for our Dealers list and you will know when our new Introductions are available, as they are listed. Thank you for your cooperation. Sorry -- no retail Mail Orders, Retail Sales at Greenhouses only.

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Greenhouses located one mile east of School, at Granger, Ohio, off Route 94. Open every day 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Closed Sundays only, during July and August.

Double

Pinks



We are now accepting orders for April and May shipping. These are shipped in 2¼" pots in bud and flower, in special packing and sent special handling. The double pinks will be released at the greenhouse on March 31, 1955, which is also the date of the Twin Cities violet show.

ALL ORDERS UNDER \$10.00 MUST INCLUDE 75¢ FOR PACKING, SPECIAL HANDLING AND POSTAGE.

PINK ACHIEVEMENT—

Best seedling award winner at St. Louis convention. Medium dble. pink with medium green foliage \$5.00

PINK ROCKET—

Darker dble. pink with darker foliage \$3.50

PINK IDEAL—

Lovely dble. light pink which glistens in light, with dark foliage \$3.50

Buy the collection of three double pinks for only \$10.00.

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HI-LOAS— Cobalt Blue, Light Blue, Purple, White—

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Dark purple flower, single, and very dark girl type foliage.

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Light blue single, also prolific bloomer.

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Medium blue single, which is a very prolific bloomer with long lasting flowers.

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RETAIL GROWERS

African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL STAFF

Vol. 8 December 1954 No. 2

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President's Message

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14.



Mrs. Magill

This beautiful autumn day as I write, this my last message to you, it is hard to realize that the glorious Holiday Season is so near at hand.

As this is the end of the year a bit of inventory seems to be in order:

I have been privileged to meet with and speak to eleven of our Chapters and have several engagements to fulfill before the close of the year. It is heart warming to witness the enthusiasm with which you plan and carry out interesting, informative and most of all well attended programs. Three judging schools with attendance of twenty to forty were included in my schedule.

Local shows have been larger, more beautifully staged with excellent awards made available to members.

Forty-seven local societies have affiliated this year, making a grand total of two hundred and sixty Chapters.

Boyce Edens memorial fund has grown in a spectacular way, which bespeaks your interest in our research program.

A sizeable gift from the research and horticultural department of Swift and Company to our research committee reveals the wide spread interest in the progress of our program.

Our membership has continued to increase month by month, coming from all corners of the world (reminding us of the Affiliated Chapter that joined us from England).

At this time of year when gifts are paramount in everyone's heart and mind why not solve your shopping problem with a membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc. It will be a year round reminder of your thoughtfulness. You can also spread a lot of cheer and interest in our favorite plant if you use that beautiful African violet, over there that is too crowded, as a Christmas present.

Now, from the depths of my heart a great big thank you to each one of my officers, committee chairmen and board of directors for your loyal support and countless hours of labor without remuneration. To you our members who have written me such lovely letters of encouragement and inspiration accept my heartfelt appreciation.

The year has been full of exciting experiences, one being that Ferne Kellar hybridized, named and registered an African violet in my honor.

As I wish each and every one of you the joys of this Holiday Season it has been fun serving you. Without a doubt I have fallen short but I tried.

At this point will turn the charges of our good Society back into the hands of one who needs no introduction, Floyd Johnson.

Cordially yours,

For FINER AFRICAN VIOLETS,

Ada Magill



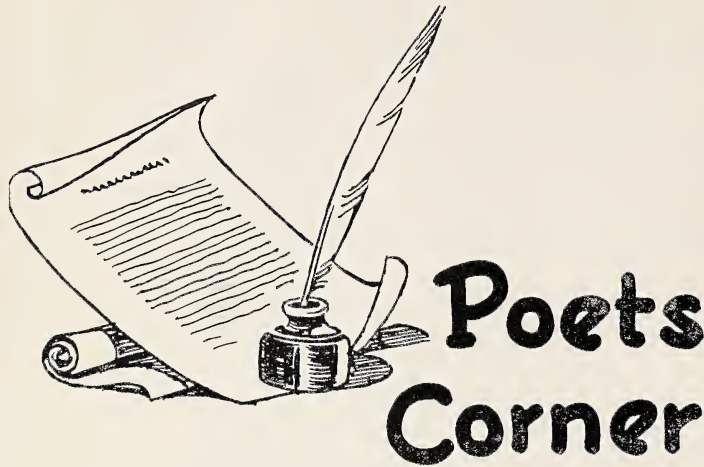
MY INDOOR GARDEN

When Frost has blackened my garden
And the flowers are faded and dead,
I treasure my window of violets --
They bring joy in the long months ahead.

The pinks and whites, blues and violets
I love every one, don't you see,
Their faces look up from their foliage --
And seem to smile tenderly.

Time was when the snows of the winter
Made gloomy the long cold days,
But now my indoor garden
Brings gladness in so many ways.

For the constant care that I give them
My violets are truly a sight,
Their lovely colors and patterns
Fill my heart and my home with delight.
Leah Paul
Salt Lake City, Utah



Our Surprise Christmas Package

TREASURE-TROVE

Captain Kidd has never found
Such treasure-trove as does abound
Within my living-room.
A cask of rarest jewels agleam
Could never half so lovely seem
As violets in full bloom.
Upon the shelves in bright array
I keep their beauty on display,
Yet need not fear a thief.
I envy none his hoarded gold
When I have riches manifold
In carved jade filigree of leaf.
The roseate wine of rubies spill
From pots upon my window sill.
Drink deep -- You'll not repent!
The throat of every dainty "girl"
Is decked with glowing, creamy pearl
Her beauty to accent.
Encrusting every fragile petal
As jewels encrust a precious metal
There sparkles diamond dust.
I revel in the sapphire blues;
The wealth of opalescent hues
Would rouse a miser's lust.
Come -- marvel at this lavish show.
While it is in my care, I know
It shall be held in trust.

Josephine Charles



THE AFRICAN VIOLET

I'm just a little African violet,
Will I bloom? yes, you bet;
That is: If you treat me right
I will bloom with all my might.

When the weather gets, Oh, so hot!
Place a basin of water near my pot.
Please don't think me too bold,
Don't give me water that is cold.

And if you want another like me
Just see how generous I can be!
I'll share a leaf, to your delight
You stick it down in vermiculite;

You wait two months, or maybe three,
One, two, three little leaves you'll see;
Place me beside the little plants,
Just like me, you'll see at a glance.

When my soil gets very dry
You will never hear me cry,
But if you'll give me a nice warm drink
I'll brighten up as quick as a wink.

Now if you soak my feet too long
You'll do me such an awful wrong,
I'll grow weaker and weaker every day
And finally, I will pass away.

Be sure to carefully brush my leaves
For through them a violet breathes.
Watch out for insects that infest
My leaves, spray me regularly, lest
They sap my life and make me sigh,
For without help, I'll surely die.
Give me plenty of air and light
And I'll produce a wondrous sight!
Laura Davis

LAUGHING, THE PETALS DRIFT

Dedicated to

Homing Pigeon 127, African Violet Society

A tiny leaf of green -- a rooted leaf that, planted
In the warm rich brown of earth by one who
reaches up
And reaches down, green-thumbed, to touch
the earth.

And from the reaching of the growing green
Imbedded in the soil there comes
Unearthly -- heavenly shades.
Admixtures of sky colors: Lavenders
And blues, and lacy orchid shades, and velvet
plum.
The petals floated in green seas of leaves.

A violet. The Azure Blue, an Amber Queen,
Eclipse, and White Madonna.
Aurora and Black Amethyst,
A Christmas Star and Oros Dubonnet.

These from a tiny leaf that grows with hope
and care.

One of those heavenly, earthly things
That Omar says "Men set their hearts upon."
They grow, with care. Continue life.
The petals drift with Omar's rose
The roots stay on and grow
They touch the earth
A tiny violet -- a life.

Marie Holmes
Wisconsin Dells, Wisc.

"VIOLET"

When I was a child and lived on a farm
Mother would warn that the woods might
bring harm,
But often we'd slip from her e'er-present view
And, stealing away, we'd find violets new;
And then we'd race home with our skirts
full of treasure
And take them to Mom, to share in our pleasure.

And how the time passed, and my role in life
changed
From carefree child, to a more restful age,
Yet in my kitchen, blooming gaily away
Are more lovely violets, tray upon tray;
These are more perfect blooms, foliage supreme
But the same child-like happiness from them
I glean.

I still haven't time for the aches and the pains
Or the blues or the trials of those few
"rainy" days,
Water here, water there, Oh, just see how
they bloom,
And "no picking," now children, just look
round the room;
And often I think that to me they're divine
'Cause their name is "Violet," the same name
as mine!

Violet Frathel
Rochester, N. Y.

MY VIOLETS

Sweet little faces peep out at me
Faces serene, yet gay as can be.
Green leaves behind them --
Some ruffled, some plain
Others lie flat with an obvious vein.

Some faces are pink, and some of them white
Others are purple, while many are light.
Some seem to hide 'neath the foliage so green
While many stand straight and are easily seen.

Some plants resemble a bridal bouquet
With leaves and flowers in graceful array.
Many plants with leaves notched and curled --
Are in a class of their own -- and are known
as the girls.

The ladies are charming in dresses so gay --
Like a Southern belle on a summer day.
The boys are there too, the young blades
so bright
They are neat in appearances -- as they reach
for the light.

They are all my companions I love them each one,
They brighten my life -- like a day in the sun.
From dawn until sunset, I admire and strive --
To keep them healthy -- upright and alive.
Beulah T. Osgood
Beaver Falls, Penna.

I GOT IT BAD

I got it bad, and that ain't good!
I've got more violets than anyone should.
I've got 'em on the windows, I've got 'em
on the floor,
Each time I see a new one, I gotta have
one more!

My heart throbs fast
As I walk past
Their lovely upturned faces
Of "Girls," "Ruffled," "Laces."

My violets are my treasures,
My pride and joy, it's true,
They've cured my ills
I need no pills
It, too, can happen
To you, and you, and you.

Virginia Chiasson
Rochester, N. Y.

NOW I LAY ME DOWN . . .

Some will say to grow an orchid is a goal
which they aspire,
Or a dozen long-stemmed roses may complete
their heart's desire;
But when my world is dark and gloomy and
my cares I can't forget,
I lay me down to dream about a lovely
vi-o-let!

Ethel Hagen

HYPONEX

**Grows Better Plants Faster
In SOIL, SAND or WATER**

Simply dissolve and water all your houseplants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs or lawn. Produces stronger plants, more and larger flowers and fruit. Excellent for starting seedlings, cuttings, transplants. Clean, odorless. Won't burn foliage or roots if used as directed. Contains all nutritional elements complete and balanced—plus vitamin B1—Instantly available. Results sure.

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PANACEA

Are you ever discouraged and all upset?
Join the A.V.S. and you'll soon forget
That Johnnie has a broken arm
And Jimmie has the mumps
And Daddy's ulcer's acting up
And something ate the garden up.
These are such trifles o'er which to fret
When there's Ruffled Girl
And a new Fringette
And crossing the two --
What will you get?
Just you join and I think you'll agree
That "life can be beautiful"
Try it and see!

Mrs. Clifton Taylor
Flemingsburg, Ky.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Our fondest hope is that your violets will bring Happiness each day of the coming year.

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

BROCKPORT, NEW YORK

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL

Plenty of time to send for a \$3.00 or \$5.00 Christmas gift certificate, for the rooted leaves or small plants of the newest available varieties. Will ship as the weather permits all winter.

— FREE LIST AVAILABLE —

NORA E. MANEGOLD

7904 Cooper Road Kenosha, Wisconsin

4 miles east of U. S. No. 41 on Highway No. 50
Turn south on Cooper Road one-half mile

THEN THERE WERE NONE

Ten little violets sitting in a row --
The arid climate got one, he said "I gotta go."
Nine little violets sitting near a door --
A chill wind hit one, he isn't any more.
Eight little violets sitting in the sun --
One turned a sickly yellow, his earthly race was done.
Seven little violets on the shelf still sat --
One got his feet too wet, and that was that.
Six little violets sitting proudly still --
One met a mealy bug on the window sill.
Five little violets in lovely garden dirt --
One got "knotsies" in his roots,
he was badly hurt.
Four little violets taking up less space --
One day too much Hyponex hit one in the face.
Three little violets trying to look gay --
One began to lose his leaves,
he quickly fell away.
Two little violets in a "Mitey" bout --
One lost his crown forever
when he was counted out.
One little violet finally died of wilt --
These violets died a natural death,
none of them was kilt!

Mrs. Ben C. York, Sr.
Manhattan, Kansas

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

from

THE GOLDEN GREENHOUSES

SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER

If you order your leaves in December, January, or February we will root them, and ship them in April and May, for the price of fresh-cut leaves.

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3½" SQUATTY CLAY POTS NOW AVAILABLE!

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11-E mixture, crosses of many varieties having girl type foliage 300 seeds \$2.00
6-D mixture, good doubles crossed on good singles, produces approximately 50 per cent doubles or semi-doubles 150 seeds \$2.00
8-B our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00

FRIENDLY GARDENS

NEW BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

TRY IT

A new spring hat
Had never the thrill
Of the lovely violet
On your windowsill.

Neither Gage, Sally Victor
Nor John Fredricks can trace
The delicate beauty
Found in each tiny face.

Here's a message of peace
And calmness, to still
The unrest of the spirit
And surcease from ill.

The messenger --
You can guess, if you will --
Is the sweet modest violet
On your own windowsill.

Louise Huyser
Bliss, Idaho

THE HUMBLE VIOLET

To me a humble violet
Has often spoke of God --
A living admonition yet
Of words of One who trod
This foolish earth.

"Blessed are the meek," He said --
And so these violets are;
Their incense exceeds the showy bed
Which prideful beauties mar --
Of little worth!

Their tiny faces sweetly raised
With self-importance never dazed --
What an example to our mind
Of the Master's words, in gospel find
"Blessed are the pure in heart."

Who can doubt the Christian's way
As they tread the earth apart,
And sweetly chant the beatitude
"Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God."

Oh, meek and purest violet,
May I your lesson not forget!
Meek and pure, swift and sure
My path in littleness to Our Lord,
Our Lord on earth and heaven.

Betty Davis
Hollywood, Calif.

"SEASON'S GREETING" GLENSIDE STUDIO

1500 AFRICAN VIOLETS -- 200 VARIETIES

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FOR SOIL FEEDING HOUSE PLANTS

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SOIL OR LEAF FEEDING IN OR OUT-
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Department D,

RUHM PHOSPHATE CHEMICAL COMPANY

P. O. Box 361

Columbia, Tennessee

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

Outside the manger where Christ was born
 Stood a slender lonely pine.
 It heard the Herald Angels sing
 To us a King is born.

It saw the wise men bringing gifts,
 The shepherds on bended knee,
 Then drooped its branches, whispering
 Lord, I have no gift for thee.

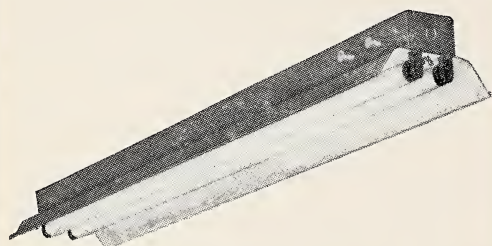
Angels seeing its sorrowing plight,
 Plucked stars from the heavens blue
 And hung them on the little pine
 Where they shone bright and true.

Now spread thy fragrance through the air
 It is a gift thou hast,
 Thou can give pleasure to the Lord,
 And all of those who pass.

The little pine stood firm and proud
 In the star light from the sky.
 It had given the gift to the new born King,
 Still gives it to all passing by.

Cora E. Fuller

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS FOR GROWERS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS



FLUORESCENT LIGHT FIXTURES similar to above, only \$14.95 ppd. for 48" fixture. Same, but complete with 6' cord and two daylight lamps, \$17.95 ppd. 24" size, with cord and lamps \$13.95 ppd. Both are highest quality and fully guaranteed.

TIME-ALL automatic timer \$11.95 ppd. See my ad page 21 of September 1954 African Violet Magazine for details.

WIRE WINDOW SHELF with Aluminum tray. 8" x 18", \$3.79; 8" x 24", \$4.69; 10" x 30", \$5.89.

WIRE TABLES — three shelf, \$9.49 ppd. Two shelf table \$4.49. Ask for illustrated folder.

LIFETIME 4 1/2" PLASTIC LABELS — special -- 100 for \$1.00 plus 10¢ mailing charge. (Reg. \$1.25).

DAIRY ORGANIC COMPOST — 2 lb. trial size 50¢ plus 40¢ mailing charge. 100 lbs., \$5.50 via express. Trial bag plus 15 plastic markers, \$1.00 ppd.

D-X AERO BOMB -- controls mealy bug and other pests -- \$1.50 plus 40¢ mailing charge. One bomb plus 15 plastic markers, \$2.00 ppd.

METAL SIGN — "AFRICAN VIOLETS" \$1.45 ppd. Send 10¢ for complete sign catalog. (Refunded on first sign order). Signs glow at night. Many types.

Complete price list on request

HARVEY J. RIDGE

1126 Arthur St.

Wausau, Wisconsin

THE CHRISTMAS VIOLET

Mary McClure, Paradise, Calif.

(Copyrighted)

M___is for MADONNA
 looking down on the child
 E___is for ENCHANTRESS
 the magic word
 R___is for RED KING
 the handsome one
 R___is for RED HEAD
 the admired one
 Y___is for YELLOW BROWN GIRL
 the illusive

C___is for CHRISTMAS STAR
 ever shining
 H___is for HOLLY
 for Christmas cheer
 R___is for RUFFLED QUEEN
 ever beautiful
 I___is for IONANTHA
 the original
 S___is for SILVER LINING
 the joy of mankind
 T___is for TWINKLES
 from the great milky way
 M___is for MISS LIBERTY
 for which we stand
 A___is for AMERICA
 the land of the free
 S___is for SNOW PRINCE
 inserted right here for this
 Christmas day

GOD KNOWS

Where do the winds go,
 Swift and strong?
 How deep is the ocean,
 Just how long?
 What makes the roses,
 Fresh with dew?
 And all the violets,
 Such lovely hues?
 What is the answer,
 Can't you guess?
 Earth's wondrous mysteries
 God knows best!

Clara B. Atwood
 Union, N. Y.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND FLORIFEROUS NEW YEAR RIENHARDT'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

BEAUTIFUL, BLOOMING GIFT PLANTS
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 W. Seneca Tpk. Routes 20N and 17S
 2 Miles W. of Syracuse, N. Y.
 NO SHIPPING



Bronze Elf miniature



Tinker Bell -- tea cup size

MINIATURES

THEY'RE REALLY HONEYS

Helen Montgomery, Kansas City, Missouri

If I had pull, or power with any of the hybridizers or growers of African violets, I would gladly beg them on bended knees to work on miniatures and dwarf plants. It would be a dream come true to have more varieties with tiny blossoms, small foliage and plants, preferably not over six inches in diameter, and to bloom profusely. We would accept them eight inches wide if we had to in order to get more distinct varieties.

I think we all "Oh!" and "Ah!" over the beautiful, mature specimen plants, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five inches across, but so few of us have the space to keep all of the varieties we would like to have in our collections because of the size they do attain.

How wonderful to have Mentor Boy, California Dark Plum, All Aglow, Fantasy, Kellar's Holly, Ruffled Queen, White Madonna, Azure Beauty, Boyce Edens, Martha Washington, Blue Warrior, etc. all in miniatures. We could have our quantity and our quality too. Six to eight plants sitting on a window sill and remaining there when they are mature plants. Two or three

glass shelves across an apartment window filled with miniature blooming plants and you have a sight that even mansions with their picture windows can not hope to compete with. As beautiful in the dead of winter as in the spring, summer and fall of the year.

My experience with miniatures has taught me that they do not flourish under fluorescent lighting. They do seem to thrive with good strong light, some sunlight -- no curtains on your windows, please. For a soil mixture I use my regular soil mixture omitting bone meal. Equal parts of sand, rotted cow manure, brown peat moss, leaf mold and black dirt. A three inch pot will take care of a miniature for years and I prefer to keep them in two inch pots through their second blooming. They are adorable in little thumb pots (only one inch across) sitting on your sills in old fashioned salt dishes, but watch! In hot rooms you may have to water a small amount twice a day. They are sturdy and strong little plants in spite of their size. Just think, if you ever had to move to another town you could put a thousand of them in the back seat of your car.



Tiny Bells

The following ones I have in my collection. Some have large blossoms, foliage a little larger than I like but only a few of them have ever reached eight inches across the top of the pot. Dubonnet -- Small dark red blossom, small plain foliage

Pink Doll -- Pure pink blossom, small plain foliage

Lehde -- Double light blue blossom, plain foliage

Violette Bronze Elf -- Light red blossom, small girl foliage

Violetta Baby Doll -- Medium red blossom, small dark girl foliage

White Elf -- Pure white blossom, plain foliage

Baby Fingers -- Lavender blossom, curly girl foliage

Mischief -- Light red blossom, compact girl foliage

Laughter -- Rose bloom, very compact girl foliage

Tear Drop -- Light blue double blooms, plain foliage

Alma Wright -- Pure white double bloom, plain foliage

Wendy -- Girl foliage, tiny medium blue bloom

Tinker Bell -- Girl foliage, red blossoms

Blazing Girl -- Girl foliage, two-tone red blossoms

Kewpie Doll -- Girl foliage, medium blue blossoms

Dolly Dimple -- Tiny blue blossom, girl foliage

Small Fry -- Plain foliage, blue blossom

Double Dumpling -- A miniature Sea Girl

Anna Belle -- Medium red bloom, girl foliage

Bronze Cherub -- Medium red bloom, girl foliage

Little Geneva Princess -- A miniature Geneva girl

Mauve Cushion -- Girl foliage, mauve blossom

- ✕ Blue Cushion -- Girl foliage, blue blossom
- ✕ Iceberg -- Red blossom, girl foliage
- ✕ Blue Frills -- Girl foliage, light blue blossom
- ✕ Little Sport -- Bi-color blossom, plain foliage
- ✕ Moonlight -- White mottled blossom, girl foliage
- ✕ Tunia's Baby -- Small girl foliage, two-tone lavender blossom
- ✕ Tunia's Tiny Girl -- Girl foliage, dark blue blossom
- ✕ Naughty Marietta -- Miniature Pink Girl
- ✕ Sunshine Baby -- Dark girl foliage, double pale blue blossom
- Anna Purna -- Medium red blossom, high growth, girl foliage
- Powshally -- (Indian name for dwarf) Red-orchid bloom, girl foliage
- Wee Wonder -- Girl foliage, dark blue blossom
- Tippy Toes -- Girl foliage, medium blue blossom
- Linda -- Girl foliage, red blossom
- ✕ Miss Quality Hill -- Light blue blossom, girl foliage
- Indigo Babe -- Dark blue blossom, pointed curly girl foliage
- ✕ Little Sue -- Red blossom, good girl foliage
- Little Dollie -- Dark blue blossom, girl foliage

We do have some Kansas City growers working on some, a promise of the Seven Dwarfs all different and Bitsy Babe, Tweedle de-de, Tweedle de-dum, Glitter Girl, Baby Gee-Gee, Baby Florence, etc. If you have others different than the ones I have described send me a description, I'll buy it. They really are my favorites of all.

We do wish the following definitions would be adopted:

Miniatures and Dwarfs -- Small in leaf, flower and growth.

Semi-Miniatures -- Small in leaf, growth, blossom size optional.

THE END

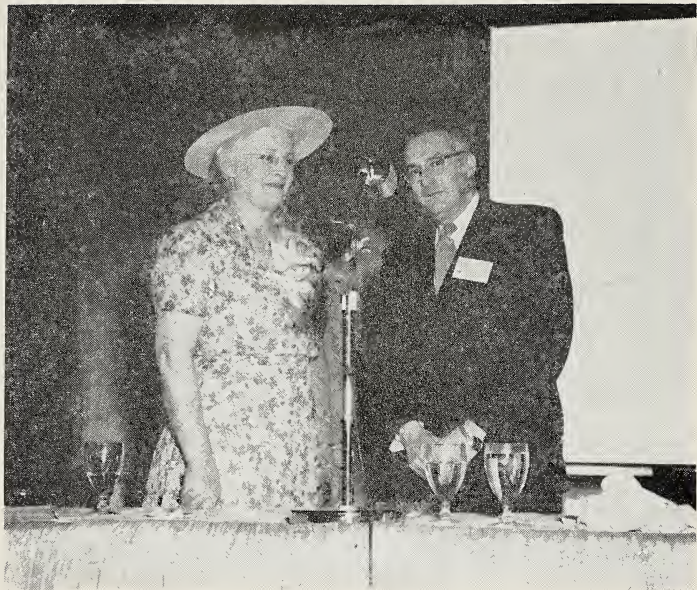
Bubbles, blooming happily in a shaving mug



Gardening Under Glass

Ernest Chabot, Irvington, N. Y.

This is a report on the lecture given by Mr. Chabot at the St. Louis meeting, and therefore the slides mentioned in the following are not reproduced.



Mrs. Magill and Mr. Chabot

I think the best way that I can tell you about African violets in the greenhouse is to show you what greenhouse gardeners are doing. Not just the home greenhouse gardener who raises plants for pleasure, but the growers who supply the good plants and splendid new varieties with emphasis on new varieties present and to come.

There seems to be some worry these days, of inferior varieties -- of new strains ruining the quality of breeding stock. You hear talk of the need for a "birth control" program in African violet production. True there will always be some inferior hybrids and bargain hunters who will be fooled by misleading advertising. But we should not take the danger too seriously. The reputable greenhouseman, this Society and the demands of the public will take care of that. People become educated very quickly as to what is good and what is not good. It has proven so with orchids, roses, and other plants. If a variety doesn't have it for one reason or another, it will not be grown. This is readily confirmed by visits to some of our good producers. I have had the opportunity to talk to a number and can assure you the greenhouse growers do their utmost to produce only those varieties that give the best satisfaction. Others who hybridize have some excellent and fascinating new material on the way to us.

Later, I am going to show you some of them -- new plants selected for their vigor, prolific flower production and unusual beauty of bloom. The men who breed them are particularly to be admired, for they could use their valuable green-

house space for crops that pay a higher monetary return. Yet, isn't that one of the great things about true horticulturists? They do not toil for personal gain, but for the love and fascination that is only to be had from the beauty of nature-in-the-making.

Another fear often expressed is that the enthusiasm for African violets has grown up so fast we hear predictions that it will die down just as quickly as it started. This is far from true. While we have had some great success in exciting public interest, we should remember that we have not even begun to scratch the surface. Our shows bring out a good following. We have had excellent publicity in the magazines and newspapers. Growers and distributors have also done a fair job with national advertising. But wait and see what is coming. This is a tremendous country. Do you know there are still millions of people who don't know what an African violet is? Not long ago I had a man from Brooklyn in my office. He admired the plants on my window sill and asked, "What flowers are those?" Of course, I was astounded, but it made me realize there are ever so many like him. Yes, particularly in the large cities. I predict the African Violet Magazine can easily have a circulation of fifty thousand within another decade . . . that it can create thousands upon thousands of new friends for African violets . . . That many, many more times the present production will be needed to supply those who learn to appreciate this most wonderful of house plants as a result of your work.



The new Orlyts are easy-to-set-up with prefabricated materials, and plant propagation is better under the controlled temperature conditions of the finished greenhouse.

A good greenhouse makes African violet culture simple. Everything needed for healthy, vibrant growth and prolific blooms is under your control. You've seen the way commercial men do it in large greenhouses. It is now also easily possible in the well designed home greenhouse.

A humidity of fifty to seventy per cent is simple to maintain. So is a night temperature of sixty-five to seventy-five degrees. One of the modern natural gas, oil, or electric heaters is all that is needed. Frequently, the house heating can be extended for the greenhouse. Good ventilation is easily maintained with large roof sash that can be operated by automatic electric control. You don't have to adjust the roof ventilators by hand every time the day clouds up or turns windy. Motor-driven operators open and close the ventilators for you -- admit fresh air as needed and close if the weather turns cool. This is especially essential in small greenhouses. They heat or cool quickly because of the small cubic content of the glass enclosure. And, as you know, plants like an even temperature, especially African violets.

Watering can be semi-automatic with watertight benches and a system of sub-irrigation. Either Vinyl plastic or the Kendall Oil Company's Kendex may be used to make wood benches watertight. Wik-fed pots and shelves are a further aid. The length of the glass wick can be adjusted to regulate the amount of moisture that reaches the plant. The fine thing about these methods of sub-irrigation is that the root ball of the plant is evenly moist and there is no danger from cold water on the foliage causing "ring spots." It is much the same as plants get their moisture in the damp floor of the tropical forest.

Shading the greenhouse is simple with slat shade panels or roller slat shades of redwood or bamboo. Cheesecloth is also used on the inside of the slat when additional shade is wanted. Shading paste or white wash is effective but very unsightly. It must be applied two or three times a year as it is washed off by the rains. Shading

the equivalent of one layer of cheesecloth is usually satisfactory in our locality during mid-winter, two layers in the spring, and three in mid-summer. More may be needed farther south. Only part of the greenhouse may be shaded if plants that need sunshine are grown in the same greenhouse with Saintpaulias.

A greenhouse is naturally humid. It traps the moisture as with an inverted glass jar, which you set out in the soil of the garden. You can increase humidity most of the year by wetting down the floor, or by adjusting the ventilators. Additional humidity in hot summer is easily attained with an automatic humidifier, which ejects a fine spray of moisture into the air. It can be operated by hand or work automatically under the control of a humidistat. African violets do well with the natural humidity available in the glass house, provided the condensation that forms on the glass is carried off. It must not drip on the plants. A well-designed greenhouse has condensation gutters and a system of carrying off condensation so water does not drip on the plants.

Plant propagation is better under humid and evenly controlled temperature conditions of a greenhouse. It must be remembered that a leaf cutting or young plant with its small root system doesn't have the same means to take up moisture as a mature plant does. The roots, if any, are small. The plant depends upon the absorption of moisture from rooting mediums through the stem. If the atmosphere is humid, it will transpire less -- give off less moisture through the foliage, and have a much greater chance to take hold and grow vigorously than when exposed to dry air. So it is only natural that greenhouse men can produce abundant, healthy plants with less effort and do so much to give us new and more interesting, prolific flowering varieties.

Amateurs as well as professionals are getting tremendous yields under glass . . . Though, I have always had my doubts that anyone who has more than one hundred plants is still an amateur.

Some of my friends are doing a real job of supplementing their income with African violets in the small greenhouse. They sell their surplus plants -- an ideal means to added income after retiring. One couple I know, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Theilemann of Balston Lake, New York, did \$3,700 worth of business in their 13 by 26 foot Orlyt and just in their spare time. Others are doing even more. There is no trick to it. They set up a greenhouse, stock it with plants and the popular demand for African violets takes care of the rest. There just aren't enough good plants to supply the demand.

The new all aluminum Orlyt greenhouses are a joy to own and grow in -- never need paint. Nothing to wear out. Once you set one up -- that's it! The aluminum house is maintenance-free.

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There are two (2) widths, Orlyt "10" and Orlyt "14." Also lean-to greenhouses to join to the home or garage. Lengths are in two and one-half foot multiples. Benches and shelves are also prefabricated and ready to install. You'll like the convenient arrangement that is possible and makes gardening ever so easy. In fact, you'll

like everything about these new, modern greenhouses, which are such great producers of plants and flowers.

THE END

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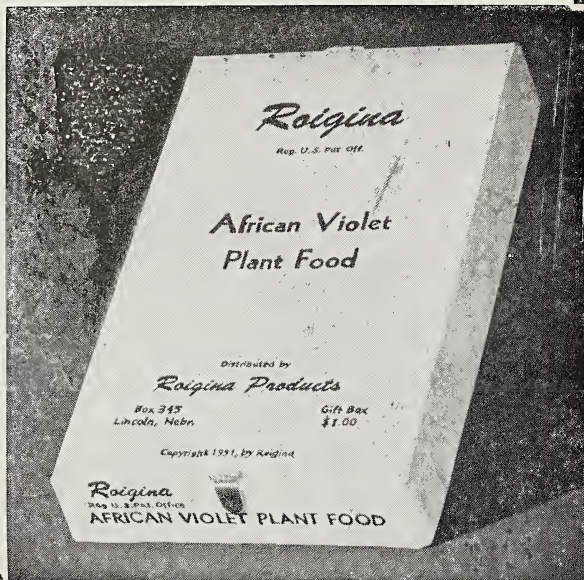
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Heredity Of African Violets

Sheldon C. Reed, St. Paul, Minn.

The Saintpaulia plants which will be described today were grown in St. Paul. No doubt the original Saint Paul would be greatly surprised to learn that his name has become so curiously associated with the wonderful little plant we honor today. My city of St. Paul was originally known as "Pigs' Eye," but that name was changed long ago and I am glad that I do not have to report that my plants were grown in a place with such a repulsive name. The ancestors of my Saintpaulias were discovered by the Baron Walter St. Paul, who was named for a European St. Paul, and went out to Africa, where he found them. But the St. Paul in Europe and the St. Paul in Minnesota were both named for the original epistle writer who does not seem to have had any particular concern with horticulture in general, and who never heard of the now famous African violet in particular.

In 1949 I noticed a charming Pink Beauty which I purchased as a gift for my wife. Soon after that another opportunity permitted me to buy her a White Lady, and in no time at all she became the bewildered recipient of many new varieties on all sorts of occasions and on imagi-

nary anniversaries. It soon became clear to her that she was destined to become an African violet "widow," and the gifts of plants lost their luster. From then on, all the violets were mine!

My occupation is in the field of genetics, the science which studies how heredity works in plants and animals. Heredity obeys very precise laws which were first discovered by the Austrian monk, Gregor Mendel, and are known as the Mendelian rules. A description of how these rules work was given in the June 1953 issue of the "African Violet Magazine." I used the characteristics of girl type leaves as contrasted with boy type, double flowers compared with single, and red flower color as opposed to purple, to illustrate how the Mendelian rules function.

In the center of each and every cell of the plant are rod like structures called chromosomes. Along these chromosomes are chemically different units or areas called genes. Each of these genes concerns itself with some characteristic of the plant. The chromosomes, and of course the genes upon them, are found to be in pairs in the cells of roots, leaves and petals. But in the reproductive cells, the pollen and egg cells, there

Dr. Reed, as he spoke on heredity at the St. Louis meeting



is only one representative of each pair of chromosomes. When an egg in the ovary of a plant receives at fertilization the chromosomes from a pollen cell, the paired condition of the chromosomes is restored, as a chromosome to match each of the single ones in the egg is provided by the pollen cell.

Mendel's first law, the principle of segregation, says that if you cross plants having different colors or forms, that your hybrid plants will keep the genes for the two different colors uncontaminated in their cells and that the different colors will be expected to emerge or segregate again in the subsequent generations of breeding and they will do so in definite ratios. For instance, if you cross Red Head Girl with any plant having the boy type leaves you will get a clear cut 1:1 ratio of girl type plants to boy type plants in the offspring. When I made this cross, I got ninety-two girl type to ninety-one boy type plants, a 1:1 ratio of precision. Self fertilization of the girl type plant gives three girl type plants to one boy type.

Mendel would have called the gene causing girl type leaves a **dominant** because it **always** shows itself if present in the plant and it covers up the presence of the boy type gene which is, therefore, said to be **recessive**. No matter what kind of a cross we make, if one parent has girl type leaves, at least half of the offspring will have girl type leaves also.

The girl type leaf is a mutant or "sport" found in the boy type which is the kind of leaf found in the plants in their wild habitat. The hundreds of named varieties we now have are mutants from the ancestral wild type, or combinations of one or more mutations. A mutation results from a change in the wild type gene, as it was found in Africa, to some new color or form such as the girl type leaf or the double flower. Some of the mutations are found to be dominant to the wild type gene partner and cover it up, while others are recessive to the wild type gene and are hidden by it, except when present on **both** members of the chromosome pair; then the recessive mutation shows, as the wild type gene is no longer present.

Five of the ten mutations from the African wild type which I will discuss today are dominant to the wild type and five are recessive to it. Let's take the five dominant mutations first. A symbol has been given for each characteristic which is useful for identification purposes.

DOMINANT GENES

1. **G** is the symbol for the "girl" mutation. As stated before, the crosses made with girl type leaves by boy type plants gave 1:1 ratios showing that the girl type parent was **Gg**, that is, carried the boy type gene, **g**, concealed. Selfing gives three plants that are **GG** and **Gg**, both girl types, to one plant that is **gg** or boy type. The **GG** plants with a double dose of the girl gene tend to be dwarfed and breed poorly.

2. **D** seems to be a proper symbol for double flowers. Crosses of seven named single varieties

with a Double Neptune plant gave fifty-eight double plants to eighty-six singles where seventy-two of each were expected. This deviation from the 1:1 ratio comes about because a few of the plants with the gene for double flowers present, still produced single flowers. There is great variability in the "doubleness" of double flowers, as you all know, and occasionally it is so weak you don't notice it.

When a plant with double flowers is selfed a reasonable approximation to the 3:1 ratio is obtained, though with still a slight deficiency of doubles. Some of the plants with two doses of the gene for doubleness, **DD**, probably can be distinguished from those with one dose **Dd**, as the petals are arranged in a more orderly fashion and the flowers are smaller on **DD** plants.

3. **S** is suggested as the symbol for the dominant inhibitor of the pigments, other than chlorophyll, throughout the plant which distinguishes the variety, Snow Girl. The plants can be scored when very small, due to the light green leaves and white petioles. The flowers are usually white, though some have areas of blue and still others are completely pigmented but the pigmentation is never as intense as the wild type purple. The Snow Girl plant used for the outcrosses has only one gene for the pigment inhibitor. Offspring from the selfing of the plant are not yet in flower so it is not possible to tell whether the still unknown **SS** plants can be distinguished from the parent **Ss** plant.

4. **A** has been selected to designate the dominant dilution factor which results in the variety, Pink Amethyst. Pink Amethyst is not pink in the sense that Pink Beauty is; it is merely a dilute red. Pink Amethyst is not a favorable characteristic for research as it merely dilutes whatever color would be expressed ordinarily. Scoring colors which vary only in intensity is always hazardous. None-the-less, when crossed with two red varieties it gave one Pink Amethyst (**Aa**) to one red (**aa**). When selfed, it produced a ratio of one red (**aa**) to two Pink Amethyst (**Aa**) to one pale Pink Amethyst (**AA**), the third class being almost white.

5. **M** is used to label still another pigment inhibitor called Mottled. The original plant was a seedling obtained from a hybridizer, Mr. Robert Anderson. As you know, his "Tonkadale" display won the cup as the best commercial exhibit at the National Convention. It resembles Snow Girl but is not as strong an inhibitor, as there is always at least a thin line of color along the top two petals. The anthocyanins of the stems and leaves are inhibited almost completely, so the plants can be scored while very young. Some leaves and sometimes all of the flowers "revert" to considerable pigmentation. It is not clear what is happening in these unstable plants.

The Mottled characteristic behaves as a clear cut dominant, giving a 1:1 ratio when crossed with unrelated varieties. The plants from the selfing of the Mottled parent are not yet in flower, so we don't know whether **MM** is distinguishable from **Mm**.

RECESSIVE GENES OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

The mutations given below were found to be recessive to the "wild type."

6. **r** has been selected as the symbol for what is called red. This recessive, when in the double dose, alters the wild type purple to something resembling red, which is perhaps more of a plum color. There is no confusion as to whether a flower is purple or red. Three red varieties crossed with each other, and also selfed, gave two hundred and thirty-three plants, all red (**rr**).

The backcross results of forty-seven non-red to thirty red, equality expected, and the F_2 results of forty-two non-red to eleven red show a deficiency of red plants which is not due to faulty scoring but might be due to a lower viability of the red plants, or merely to a large sampling error.

7. **sp** is the symbol for spooning. The leaves of the variety known as Gorgeous Bicolor roll up at the edges resulting in a leaf which looks slightly like a spoon. It is only a fair characteristic for genetic research as the spooning is extremely variable and from a selfing, where all the progeny must be genetically spooned, there were three plants out of thirty-nine which did not show any evidence of spooning. It does not appear at all in first generation plants, but appears in a little less than the expected one quarter of the second generation plants.

The modifiers which prevent full expression of spooning seem to be both environmental and genetic in nature.

8. The symbol **ge** can be used for the white edging of the flower found in Lady Geneva and the strains derived from it. This characteristic is interesting, as in some of the plants resulting from a selfing, the edging is expressed as structural damage in the form of notches. All the nicks or notches of a particular plant will be of about the same size. Neither the white edge nor the notches breed true and either may be present without the other, though usually both appear. Among twenty-one plants from a selfing there were sixteen with the edging, notches, or both, while five plants showed neither expression of the character. The Geneva characteristic does not appear in any form in outcrosses to strains without this characteristic, therefore it is recessive in its behavior.

9. The symbol **p** has been adopted for the true pink color seen in Pink Beauty, Pink Cheer and the other shell pink strains. The intensity of the pink may vary considerably on the same plant at different flowering periods. Different segregates from a selfing vary greatly in their "pinkness" which suggests that both genetic and environmental modifiers function. However, in the second generation after a cross of Pink Beauty Supreme by Double Neptune (purple) there is no difficulty in classifying the progeny in the 3:1 ratio of three purple to one pink. Incidentally, some very nice pink double segregates were obtained from this second generation.

10. The last characteristic will be given the symbol **f**. This stands for Fantasy and represents a strange and interesting gene indeed. Fantasy is an "ever-sporting" strain. The flowers have a basic light lavender color and the cells which mutate give rise to rays and splotches of purple. The size of the areas descended from each mutant cell varies from very small to very large on each flower. Each of the flowers on one plant looks different from every other flower but the ratio of mutated area to lavender non-mutated area is about the same for all the flowers on one plant and for the offspring from leaf cuttings of that plant. When a Fantasy is selfed, there is great variation among the offspring, some seedlings showing large areas of purple tissue, others intermediate sized purple areas and others with tiny pinpoint flecks of purple, and still others that are entirely purple.

The Behnke Greenhouses very generously sent me a plant of the Fantasy variety before it was generally distributed, so that I have had about four years to work with this characteristic. Even so, the most interesting genetic aspects of this variety still remain to be studied. Some of the current findings follow.

Mutations of the Fantasy lavender gene to a purple gene apparently occur in all tissues of the plant. Florists are well aware that leaf cuttings from a Fantasy plant often produce a plant with only purple flowers. This means that the mutation occurred in the vegetative tissue from which the cutting developed.

In the offspring of the selfing of a Fantasy plant the majority of the plants are Fantasy but the three following types of plants were also obtained by the speaker.

- a. Half of the plant was Fantasy and the other half purple. Apparently one of the cells had mutated to purple very early in the development of the embryo, perhaps at the two-cell stage.
- b. At fertilization of the egg either the egg cell or pollen cell had mutated to purple, but not both. This type of plant has all purple flowers due to the fact that the egg or pollen nucleus had mutated. However, in these purple flowers there are rays and splotches of a darker purple which show the typical Fantasy pattern. These rays and splotches represent mutations of the second Fantasy gene which had not mutated until the formation of the flowers.
- c. When both egg and pollen cell nuclei had mutated by the time of fertilization the resulting plant had all of its flowers with a deep royal purple pigmentation without any pattern of darker areas. All the genes of the plant are now of the mutant stable purple and none are of the old unstable lavender.

When Fantasy is crossed with other strains all the flowers are intense purple without signs of

the mutant pattern. Obviously the lavender Fantasy gene is recessive to the wild type purple of other strains. But as the pattern can be seen in plants of type b, described above, it would seem that the purple to which the lavender mutates is not the same as the wild type color but might be said to be "weaker" or lighter purple than the wild type.

In addition, the offspring from the selfing of the Fantasy plant also segregated for a dilution gene which diluted both the lavender and purple areas. It made the lavender area quite "pink" in appearance. Finally, the Fantasy plant carried the ordinary pink gene, p, described above.

POLYPLOIDY

You have learned about polyploidy as produced by colchicine from the previous talk. As far as I know, the varieties such as Blue Heiress and the du Ponts never had any contact with colchicine but were the results of the spontaneous appearance of polyploidy. Miss Agnes Hansen has made pollen mother cell preparations of the Blue Heiress plant which I have, and finds it to be polyploid. The hybrids from it and a diploid (Double Neptune) are most interesting but need further study.

WHY BOTHER?

Why bother to study the heredity of the African violet? There are three good reasons. The first one is that the plant looks as if it might have considerable merit for scientific research. The American high standard of living has come about as a result of the utilization of our natural resources following improvements due to scientific research. The second reason is that by applying Mendel's rules you can get desired new varieties much more economically than by hit-or-miss guesswork. Finally, as everyone here is a hybridizer, I hope, a comprehension of the fact that your hybrids are sorting out into clear-cut ratios of old and new types, will add new zest and pleasure to what is already a most fascinating pursuit of happiness, that of growing living organisms.

THE END

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HELEN MONTGOMERY

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BUYER'S GUIDE REPORT

The Buyers' Guide is now ready to give you their "Select Twenty-five." We are also ready for each of you to send us your choice twenty-five from which will be taken the "Best One Hundred Varieties." Please list your choice twenty-five and mail as early as possible to the chairman, Mrs. Sam O. Nichols, 246 Madison Boulevard, Madison, Tennessee in order for us to get the "Best One Hundred Varieties" in the magazine as soon as possible.

The committee also wishes to add to their list:

BLACK MAGIC (Granger Gardens) Lovely dark blue bloom which has a pronounced yellow center. Nice dark bronze red backed quilted foliage.

"SELECT TWENTY-FIVE"

1954

Pink Delight (Ulery's)
Black Magic (Granger Gardens)
Pink Cheer (Gent's)
Blue Warrior (McFarland's)
White Madonna (Granger Gardens)
Snow Prince (Ulery's)
Boyce Eden's (Nichol's)
California Dark Plum (Wilcox Nurseries)
Low Cluster Blue (Merkle)
Painted Girl (Ulery's)
Lavender Beauty (Ulery's)
Innocence (Ulery's)
Indianola (Ulery's)
Purple Knight (Ulery's)
Bridal Wreath (Brown's)
Blue Wonder (Ulery's)
Purple Princess (Granger Gardens)
DuPont Lavender Pink (Mrs. W. K. duPont)
Sailor's Delight (Ulery's)
Christmas Star (Fischer's)
Navy Bouquet (Tinari's)
Sunrise (Ulery's)
Azure Beauty (Ulery's)
Bronze Bi-color (Ulery's)
Forget-me-not (Hanson)

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Left, Achimenes "Robusta," a strong upright plant with magenta flowers.



Right, Achimenes "Purple King," with large, rich double blossoms.

Another Member Of The Violet Family

Shirley Heinsohn, Knoxville, Tenn.

The Saintpaulia has several lovely and interesting cousins in the Gesneriad family -- perhaps the gloxinia and the episcia are two of the better-known members. Are you also familiar with the achimenes? This is another relative, a shade-loving plant that is a joy both in your window garden and in your yard.

The achimenes grow best in light shade and a reasonable amount of moisture. The culture is very similar to that of the tuberous begonia. Planted in beds in shady spots under trees or nooks in the rock garden, they grow and bloom where other plants hesitate.

The achimenes bulbs are tiny and root-like -- but they are small packages full of surprises! Some plants, such as Blue Beauty, grow from twelve to eighteen inches long and require at least twelve inches square of garden space. And what a picture when potted in your window garden! A single bulb will fill a four-inch pot in a season.

Plant achimenes in very fibrous leaf-mold and peat with some sand added for good drainage.

Like your African violet, they love water -- but not to stand in. They can take a little more sunlight than your prize-winning violet, being somewhat tougher. But on the whole, if you treat them just like their Saintpaulia cousins in watering, feeding and light, you will both be very happy with the results.

There are several trailing plants in the achimenes family, with blossoms from pure white, as "Purity," through the light lavender blues of "Longiflora" to the large purple blues of "Pansy"; from the rich, clear pinks of "Little Beauty," through the brick red of "Master Ingraham" to the light magenta of "Vivid."

There are dwarf, compact plants of "Venusta," with small, double, dark purple flowers; "Purple King," with large, rich double flowers; and "Robusta," a strong, upright plant with magenta flowers. With such a wide selection of color and size to choose from, it should be a treat for even the "choosiest" of outside or arm-chair gardeners to try a few of these lovely achimenes this spring.

THE END

Right, "Purity," a pure white trailing variety.



Left, "Little Beauty," another of the trailing variety, with blossoms of rich, clear pink.

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The Search For African Violets

Mrs. P. D. Barker, P. O. Box 89, Tanga
Tanganyika Territory, East Africa

Since my article on African violets entitled "Tanga Province -- Home of the Saintpaulia," was published in the June edition of the African Violet Magazine, I have received a number of letters from new friends in the U. S. A. All the letters have been most interesting, many have helped me with information as to the whereabouts of the plants, whilst others have offered to send seeds and leaves in exchange for some of our seed. In most cases correspondents ask for the seeds of certain varieties of African violets. I have, however, had to tell all these kind friends that I am not in a position to supply these as yet, apart from *S. ionantha*, but hope to do so in the future.

The search then for all varieties started in earnest after I returned from overseas leave in June, and two friends, Mr. and Mrs. Punter, joined us in the hunt for the various varieties. Mr. Punter has lived in Tanga for many years, is a keen gardener and a knowledgeable horticulturalist.

On a Sunday morning in July, we set out on our first expedition to find plants, but this proved an infinitely more difficult task than we anticipated. We chose Amani in the Eastern Usambara Mountains as our first objective. Here we hoped to find *S. amaniensis*. In the same district, and within a radius of some five to six miles, we hoped to find *S. grotei*, *S. magungensis* and *S. diplotricha*.

The expedition, however, did not go according to plan! After leaving Muheza, twenty-six miles out of Tanga, the road branches off to Amani and almost immediately winds through a rich river valley with thick forests growing down to the road on either side. This is the valley of the Sigi River and a most luscious looking valley it is! About fifteen miles short of Amani, in the foothills of the mountains, we stopped at a bridge over the Sigi River. We fought our way up the river bed for some miles; and although we found lots of beautiful wild flowers, including orchids, not an African violet did we see. We repeated this at several vantage points up the winding and precipitous road to Amani, searching sometimes along the river and sometimes on likely looking rocks in the forest, but still there was no sign of a violet.

We eventually reached Amani at about 3:00 p. m. This is the old site of a Plant Research Station, started by the Germans in 1902, which was famous for plants, trees and flowering shrubs from all over the world. Unfortunately the Research and Plant Breeding Station was closed down in 1950, although many of the trees and shrubs still remain.

We set out immediately for the upper reaches of the Sigi River as a last hope of finding some Saintpaulias. In the forest, very overgrown near the river, we found an old fernery which was almost a ruin. Growing on the walls of this fernery amongst a variety of other plants we found a large number of African violets. There is a path leading to the river from the fernery, and scattered along this woodland path were portions of pillars and masonry which had been part of the fernery. Growing on these and also all over the rocks nearby were thousands of African violets. We think that this must have been a private collection, and we brought back several different varieties. Now, however, we are faced with the difficult task of identifying them! Our plan to identify them by the districts in which they grow has so far failed. This is undoubtedly the case with *S. ionantha*. It would seem that one can tramp over vast areas of mountain and forest without finding a single plant. Our task, it will be seen, is not an easy one.

Most of the plants we brought down have survived, although I do not think they thrive so well in this lower altitude and greater heat as, for instance, *S. ionantha*. One variety we found is a much larger plant than any of the others and is a creeper. It was growing in profusion all over the rocks near the river. Other varieties include plants with dark leaves red at the back, others with pale leaves and some with very pale green leaves. The flowers are small and the dark leaved one has a blue flower.

Since then time has not permitted any further expeditions but I hope to visit Lushoto in the western Usambaras in September, and shall hope to find the *Sp. Greenway* varieties at 6,000 feet.

Meanwhile a friend has brought Mr. Punter a plant from another part of the mountains near Sakarre. This is quite the most beautiful plant I have seen and has dark green velvety leaves. Mr. Punter reports that the flower has a faint tinge of pink in it. Another friend has brought this week a new variety. This is another large plant with oval leaves and does not resemble any of the other varieties we have seen. This plant came from an estate at the foot of the Usambaras called Magunga. We think, therefore, that it may be *S. magungensis* but it has not flowered yet.

We learn that *S. goetzeana* and *S. pusilla* are found in the Uluguru Mountains near Morogoro. This is not in the Tanga Province; and being a long way from here, we see little hope at present of obtaining these unless we find someone going that way who is sufficiently interested. It will be appreciated that, as the African violets only

appear to grow in small and isolated clumps, anyone might tramp for days without finding a single specimen. Tanganyika is very sparsely populated with Europeans and it is no easy matter finding someone going that way.

We hope, with the help of Mr. Greenway, who hopes to pass through Tanga on his return from leave in October, to find out what varieties of Saintpaulias we have. Mr. Evan Roberts of Michigan State College has kindly offered to help us in identifying our plants. We are at present taking photographs of our plants to send him with a detailed description of each plant. If this does not prove successful, we will apply for permits to send leaves to him for identification.

May I state here that we are very interested in exchanging seed with kind friends in the U. S. A. Our S. ionantha seed will be ready very

shortly but this is the only known variety we are at present able to exchange. We are greatly looking forward to obtaining some of the wonderful varieties we see in the African Violet Magazine. One kind friend has already sent me some seed from her own plants, half of which I gave to Mr. Punter. Ten days after sowing, the seeds came up in profusion and are so far doing fine.

THE END

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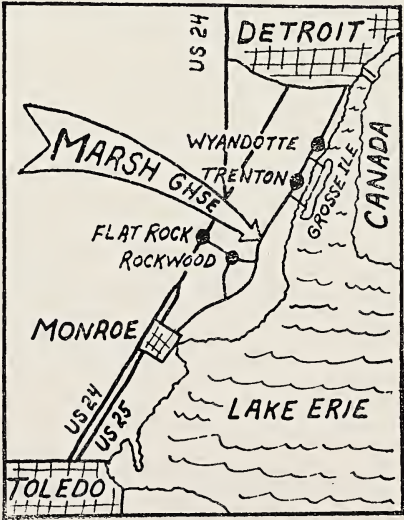
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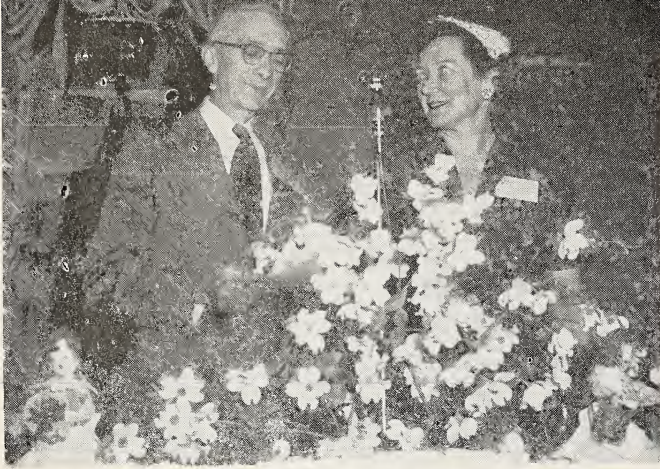
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Mr. Pease and Lois Minehan share the microphone at the St. Louis Convention.

HOME MADE EVOLUTION BY OLIVER PEASE

Helen Pochurek, Solon, Ohio

in a package, as it is prepared for sale, to use experimentally on plants would cause nothing more than a stomach ache if taken internally.

My interest in Colchicine was aroused by a short article I happened to read in a magazine in 1939. It told of experiments that were being conducted by agricultural stations. These were in hybridization only and no methods or directions were given. I immediately became curious as to its effects on plants grown from cuttings. Although the drug is poisonous and sold on prescription only, I convinced my druggist that I had no ulterior motives and he sold me what stock he had on hand. The solution was fifty-five per cent alcohol, so after finding out the hard way that plants cannot drink alcohol and survive, I distilled the alcohol out of the remainder on our kitchen stove.

The strength of the solution that I used in my first experiments was much too strong and only a small percentage of the treated leaves survived. However, I was successful in changing three varieties. Pink Beauty became a Pink duPont, White Lady became a White duPont and were registered as such over ten years later. Blue Boy also became a Supreme and was very similar to the plant Black Beauty. I know now that several plants that were discarded should have been kept as I shall explain later.

During the war years, the drug was unobtainable, so I was forced to forego my experiments for some time. Practically all of the drug at that time was produced in Poland.

After the war, I obtained a copy of the book "Plant Magic," by James P. Haworth. It deals at length on the use of Colchicine on various plants and seeds. It also tells of the correct percentage of Colchicine to use in experimenting. It also describes its effect on plant cells which I had not understood before. After an eight year wait, my druggist finally told me he had obtained Colchicine and my experiments started anew.

Practically all flowering plants have di-ploid cells. This means each plant cell has two chromosomes. These cells are identical in all parts of every plant. Only under ideal conditions can the cell structure be seen under a powerful microscope. Each chromosome rod would appear as a single row of corn would appear lengthwise on an ear of corn. Each chromosome contains thousands of genes. Some of these genes are predominant while others are recessive. It is the characteristics of the predominant genes that determine everything about the growth, the color,

Since my talk on Colchicine concerns mutations, I would like to describe mutation as one or more parts of a plant differing from other plants of the same species, that may be reproduced by seed or vegetatively. Assuming that such change was caused naturally by other means than hybridization.

Have you ever wondered what the early members of the Gesneria family looked like several million years ago? It is very improbable that we would recognize them as the ancestors of our Saintpaulia and Streptocarpus of South and East Africa -- the Gloxinia and Episcia of tropical America -- the Alpine plants, Ramonda and Haberlia, or the woody Trichosporum of Asia and the East Indies.

These changes were brought about by countless mutations. When we consider that only those mutations which were best adapted for growing competitively in their particular environments survived, we cannot but wonder what species grew for a while and then were eventually crowded out of existence. Nature does not preserve the best, but the toughest.

To illustrate mutations of this type, consider the thornless rose, the red delicious apple or the double flowering crab.

Now what causes mutations to occur in nature? This study is new and cannot be answered in full. However, it is known that extremes of heat and cold -- of flood and drouth -- a severe bruise -- lightning -- radiation and anything toxic to a plant, which may be in the soil or the sting of an insect or other plants.

This is the way Colchicine affects other plants. As this drug is fairly easy to obtain and the only method I have tried, my talk will be confined to its use.

Colchicine is an extract obtained from the fall-blooming crocus. It has long been used as a remedy for gout and rheumatism. However, it is poisonous and care should be used in handling. Keeping it from one's eyes and washing the hands after using should be the only precaution necessary. I have the word of my druggist and two doctors that the entire amount of Colchicine

the shape and the habits of the plant. The genes are infinitesimally small and cannot be seen. However, the results in a plant can be easily detected when some of the recessive types are brought into prominence.

When Colchicine is applied, the natural growth of the chromosomes is not affected. They widen and split normally but the toxic effects of the Colchicine prevent the normal cell division. This plant will now be known as a tetraploid. That is -- it will have plant cells containing four chromosome rods instead of the normal two.

An African violet having tetraploid cells will be a Supreme, Amazon or duPont variety.

Doubtless, many of you have noticed some of Burpee's new varieties, listed as tetraploid snapdragons, phlox and gaillardia. The catalogue states that they were Colchicine treated. Seeds on original plants were either soaked in solution or the seed pods treated by injection. Information on this is not given out by Burpees.

The method I use will give results if used correctly. However, do not expect one hundred per cent results with every leaf cutting treated. There are two types of Colchicine. One is a salve containing 5% Colchicine and 99.5% lanolin. The other is a water solution containing .02% Colchicine. Either is effective.

I used the salve form at first. The percentage of successfully treated plants is higher but the mortality rate is also high. The liquid solution does not produce as large a percentage of Supremes but the mortality rate is very low and it seems to produce a wider variety of results.

Whichever type is used, the application must be made directly on the growing tip. As you know, the petiole base will enlarge or callous and tiny plants appear above this enlarged portion of petiole. Leaves may be rooted in water or vermiculite, but should be treated just after petiole is enlarged. Using the salve, place salve just around the base of petiole. This is best done by holding the leaf and turning it through the salve. This coating must be thorough but as light as possible. Care must also be taken to keep it from the bottom of the cutting where roots will appear. Roots will not grow at all well through the salve. Be sure that the entire petiole base is covered with salve as normal plants will get stunted in untreated area. This greatly reduces success. The little plants will not grow willingly through the paste, so great care must be taken when planting.

Now for planting. Any growing medium is satisfactory . . . but I prefer half sand and half peat moss, fairly moist. Care must be taken not to brush off solution in the planting process. Plant about one-half inch deep and prop with a plant label. I use a large flower pot and then cover the leaf with a wide-mouthed refrigerator jar that will sit on the growing medium inside of the flower pot. This prevents leaching. I water over the top of the glass. Care must be taken to shade glass from sun.

Now to use the liquid form. I prefer it as it is the easiest and quickest. Leaves should be calloused, as described above, leaves can be rooted but no plantlets showing. Liquid Colchicine comes in a bottle with medicine dropper in the top. Pinch this dropper until glass tube has eight to ten drops. Plant leaf one-half inch deep. Place Colchicine so it will run down the petiole to roots, going entirely around petiole. Be sure entire parts are covered. Proceed as above, using a large pot and cover with jar. Water sparingly so solution will not be weakened. Allow the glass to remain until small plants appear.

The glass may now be removed and your patient or impatient wait for results will begin. If you expect something like Jack's bean stalk to shoot out, you will be disappointed. Even if that treatment has taken, all of the plants will not be Supreme. The Supreme will very often be the runt of the crop and the last one to appear. Remember the natural growing habits of the plant have been given a severe shock and it must readjust its growing mechanism.

There is no time limit for this to occur. Some of my plants have taken a few weeks longer than others. Others I am growing have not bloomed after two years. These later plants are probably polyploid instead of tetraploid. In this case, the plant will have distorted leaves. A leaf taken from a plant of this type will be quite apt to produce a blooming plant before the original treated plant will. This is the type of plant that I discarded in my earliest experiments. Plants grown from these leaves will really produce a great variety of forms. Some may have large, nearly round leaves -- others may produce various marked changes from the original plant. These plants may or may not be Supreme. There is no way of knowing just what will develop. I am thoroughly convinced that this is caused by a disarrangement of the genes in the plant cells.

Some plants that appear on the original treated leaves, that are neither tetraploid or polyploid, will also show a variety of changes. This is especially true of plants that were treated after the roots had been formed. All of these changes will not always be for the betterment of the plants. It is very similar to planting seeds, some may be discarded while others will be very worthwhile.

Plants need be treated just once. A true tetraploid will not revert and will propagate true. I have not tried cross-pollenization of any tetraploid plants, but I believe that very interesting results may be obtained.

Some very interesting and beautiful plants have resulted from my later experiments. I believe the best of these is Dark Star, which is a Supreme form of Star Sapphire. It produces a huge bell type of bloom that is very striking. Another is Supreme Sailors Delight. Others are Supreme forms of Azure Beauty, Double Neptune, Pink Cheer, Pink Wonder, Fairy Boats, and many others.

THE END

VIOLETS IN JAPAN

Norma Butler, Japan

My husband, who is with the Air Force, was transferred to Japan in September, and I just couldn't move without my violets. When he wrote that he had a Japanese house, I sent my plants by air mail, prior to leaving myself. Since then, they have been farmed out with friends living on the Air Base -- for Japanese houses have no heat! We provided small kerosene heaters, but it just wasn't enough to take care of my plants during the winter, and I am afraid my plants haven't fared too well. The soil probably is not just right, and they miss my tender loving care. Since we hope to have base housing soon, I am looking forward to bringing my plants home. I even hope to try some seeds when it is warm enough.

Spring comes to Japan in March, and we are truly enjoying all the lovely blooming plants that surround us everywhere. There are many varieties of camelias, which seem to bloom all year

here, many different kinds of magnolias, flowering peach and cherry trees, and such an abundance of bloom that it is almost overpowering. Since little or no paint is used in Japan and the houses are left "unfinished," they weather until they almost seem to disappear among the shrubbery. This makes all the lovely blossoms stand out prominently against the dark background and enhances their beauty even more.

I have inquired at several shops here as to the purchase of violets. And although I have not seen any as yet, some have told me that they will appear when the weather gets warmer. So, in addition to the many lovely things here, Japan also has the African violet.

THE END

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NATURE'S WAY

Marie Dannemiller, 123 25th St., N. W.
Barberton, Ohio

When Mrs. Radtke suggested I write the story of my success in growing Saintpaulias "Nature's Way" for the National magazine, and in the next sentence warned me if I did, I would be swamped with mail, I was a little prepared for SOME letters, but never dreamed of such an avalanche as did descend. I want to express my appreciation for the nice comments I have received and hope I have been of help with my answers.

The one question in every letter was "Where can I buy the potash and phosphate rock you use?" Write the Potash Rock Company of America, Inc., Lithonia, Georgia, and the Ruhm Phosphate and Chemical Company, Box 361, Columbia, Tennessee, for the names of the distributors nearest you. Both rocks are mined, ground and shipped in carload lots to distributors, who in turn sell to dealers. Hybrotite potash is put up in eighty pound bags and sells here for \$2.00, the Ruhm phosphate is put up in one hundred pound bags and sells here for \$2.25. All natural potash rock should test the same and so should all phosphate rock; other brand names are quite all right to use, and from some of the reports coming back to me I believe both weight content and price is much like Hybrotite and Ruhm's.

Buy the large bags, if at all possible, for use on your lawns, gardens and flower beds as well as for your violet mix, and you will be amazed at the results. We started using both in March, 1953; we have no bean beetles, no tomato horn worms. I did not lose chrysanthemums with nematodes over the winter, they have no aphids, are not dried and leafless way up the stem as formerly. Years ago, I had over sixty varieties of choice iris which I had my husband haul to the dump, for I could not control the iris borers; here and there, small pieces have developed into nice clumps; and, for the first time I can ever remember, there is not a sign of borer damage. Maple bladder gall has practically covered whole sections of our trees for the past several years; this year they are widely scattered, and I believe the continued use of these rocks will entirely eliminate this condition before long. Our lawn stayed green when everyone else's was burned out this summer, and we feel it is due entirely to being furnished with the minerals it needed. Write each company for literature on their products and be convinced that it is the way to better health for your plants and for yourself.

I referred many of my correspondents to their farm bureaus for sources of ground rocks in their areas, and was amazed at the letters I

received saying their bureaus either never heard of them, or advised them to use superphosphate and muriate of potash. These two products are strong man-made chemical fertilizers, and if used as I use the rocks will burn your plants up. One bureau attendant got rather nasty with an Illinois lady and told her there was NO such thing as potash rock, so I sent her a pamphlet on Hybrotite to mail him, and I'm hoping his face was red! !

Geologists say the granite gneiss (potash) was formed millions of years ago when white hot rock boiled through the surface of the earth and mixed with sedimentary rocks forming the earth's crust at that time; it is the deepest part of the crust of the earth that nature has allowed man to penetrate, and this gneiss may be considered as the foundation of America. There are no fossils in this strata of rock, for at that time there probably was no life on earth.

Phosphate rock was formed also millions of years ago when our continent was practically covered with vast oceans, and the shells and skeletons of marine life, rich with phosphorous, settled to the bottom. There is nothing more fascinating than the study of soil, the formation of the various layers of the earth, and their relation to present day living. This information can be obtained at any library, and surely many of you have the Books of Knowledge, which are a never ending source of wonder to me, and I would like to see more clubs take this subject for study and discussion and then EXPERIMENT. Be a pioneer -- don't be afraid to experiment. Remember if Thomas A. Edison hadn't been an inquisitive man we might still be using coal oil lamps or candles; and if it hadn't been for Alexander Graham Bell, how in the world would we violet lovers ever manage to spend the time we do discussing our pets with friends miles away?

Some of my correspondents seem to think the way I am now growing plants is a fad -- far from it! ! Check back in all the magazines and read over the stories on the specie by Evan Roberts. Didn't you think the story in the June issue by Mrs. P. D. Barker from Tanga, East Africa, fits right in with mine? Re-read the story on "Mineral Deficiency Symptoms," by Renee B. Choitz, in the December, 1953, issue, as well as Dr. Charles Ackerman's talk at the Nashville convention on "Nutrient Balance" in the same issue. Go back to the September, 1952, issue to the talk by Philip S. Wells on "Gardening With Bacteria," and to the September, 1950, issue which carries the story "For Peat's Sake,"

by Philip L. Maples, a study of the origin, processing and grading of this important organic material. Then judge for yourself whether or not "nature's way" isn't the right way.

Are YOU one of the many who look upon fallen leaves as a downright nuisance, and can hardly wait until you touch a match to a heaped-up pile? Have you ever studied a leaf and its function? Do you know it is a complete chemical laboratory in itself, furnishing the tree with nutrients, and the tree, being deep-rooted, translocates the minerals it draws from deep down in the ground into the leaves; that when the leaves fall, pound for pound, they contain twice as many minerals as manure? Right there is the base for a wonderful compost for your violets and other plants, and, in actual money value, the fallen leaves from a large shade tree has been estimated at about ten dollars, because of their humus and plant food content.

My first story was written last November, and since then several formulas have been tested out. The following is the one I now use and have passed on to my correspondents; using a pint measure, the completed mix will make about three-fourths of a peck. Don't expect a miracle of bloom at once, it will take time, for these organics must be broken down to become plant

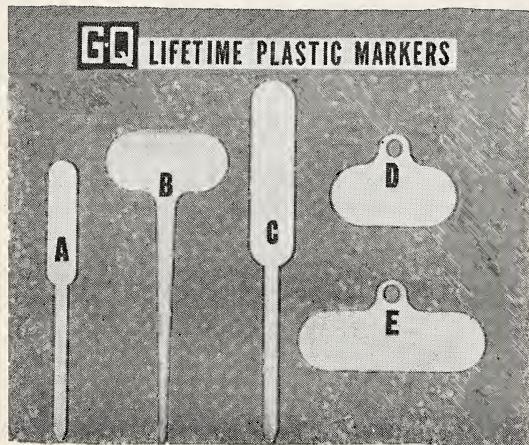
available and they will far out-last any shot-in-the-arm chemical products.

1 pint **each** potash rock, phosphate rock, bonemeal and charcoal

2 pints sterilized cow manure (mine comes from the stockyards)

5 pints **each** coarse builders sand and coarse baled peat moss, either imported from Canada, Holland, Germany, etc., or domestic.

2 tablespoons Activo, (handled by Sears Roebuck also) though any brand of bacterial activator is all right to use. I soak the peat moss in hot water then squeeze out the excess and fill container well; when measuring, mix well in an old tub or bushel basket so the air can get to it. Let it cure ten days to two weeks, keep well stirred and moist but not too wet; if a mold forms, do not be alarmed, it is not harmful --remember penicillin is made from a mold. Don't PACK your plants in any mixture, spoon it in lightly; tap the pot sharply to settle it, you want the water to get down to the roots where it is needed, not to lay at the crown and cause crown rot in this manner. Crown rot is widespread over the country from the



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letters I have received. We know it is a fungus, which is discussed in both the December, 1952, and March, 1953, magazines; however, I wish they were not so technical because it is hard for the average person to understand.

I am starting on several more experiments, why not some of the rest of you? But stick to the organics! Mother Nature has given us an example to follow in the woodlands. She doesn't sterilize HER soil, she sets up a balance to control the undesirables, be it under the ground, on top, in the air or in the water. Nature doesn't feed her children lifeless food and then supplement the deficiency with pills and capsules containing the elements they need, so why not give our beloved violets a balanced growing medium with the addition of the natural ground rocks? If you want to use soil, do so, and add the minerals, I know they will help overcome your troubles, whatever your base may be; but once you use my medium, I believe you, too, will like it very much.

Have you ever heard of a male violet? A lady in Florida wrote me that she saw what the owner claimed was a male violet from Persia and

it was what kept HER Girl plants blooming. My friend was given a small plant and she promised me that "if, and when it grows to be a MAN," she will send me a leaf. She said she could see no difference in it from the owner's other plants and could not convince the owner that the plants are bi-sexual; we have all had a good laugh over it, and I thought perhaps everyone would enjoy this little episode.

Make "nature's way" YOUR way, and, if you like it, let me know. If I can help with problems, I shall be glad to do so, but please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want a personal reply, for it will help so much. The best of luck and good wishes to you all.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

NORENE M. KOLB

WRITE FOR LIST

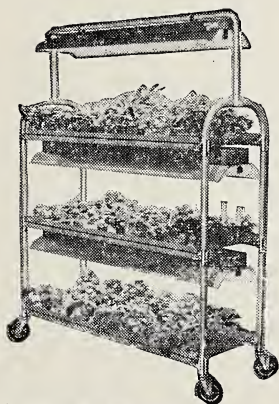
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SHOW News and Views

THE SEATTLE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY 1954 SPRING SHOW

Most African violet societies have started from some small nucleus -- a group of interested friends, neighbors or collectors, one had heard about. The Seattle Saintpaulia Society was likened to the goddess Athena who "sprung full-panoplied from the brow of Zeus." One day it was the yen in the minds of an interested few, the next day a society of fifty-five members, a constitution, and a man president.

We are now two years old and have well over a hundred members. On May 21 and 22 we put on an African violet show that would compare favorably with any held in a city larger than Seattle.

The success was due largely to the imagination, planning, working and devotion of one man, Mr. Jack Williams who was also greatly assisted by Mrs. Williams. But in all the society's ranks was found not one slacker. The men were the star performers.

Standards for ropes, used to restrain the passing hundreds from gathering a leaf here and there for mementos, were the work of Mr. B. Carter; cards for the tables were beautifully hand-printed by Mr. Mallet; exceptionally attractive show cards for advertisement in the windows of Seattle firms were designed by Mr. Williams; blue, red and white award ribbons and hostess ribbons were made by Mr. Avery. Nothing was forgotten. Mrs. Mallet kept the coffee pot full and hot in the kitchen during the working hours on the evening before the show.

The show room was perfect for the exhibits, with long tables, floor and walls in neutral tones. At the rear of the room was the educational table backed by a fine map of Africa, the violet sources plainly ringed. Beside the map was a large chart showing the family tree of the Gesneriaceae. There were the red and purple achimenes, rechteineria with their odd red cigar-shaped blossoms which never open, streptocarpus and many others.

Also on this table were plants showing the "do-and-don't" of violet culture, seeds, seedlings, soil samples, leaves, rootage, culture sheets, and dozens of other helpful ideas.

The exhibits were far beyond the expectations of even the most sanguine. It seemed that almost every type of beautiful plant was represented.

Both imagination and artistic sense were shown by many of the exhibitors, professional and amateur, in providing interesting backgrounds. A cart, heaped high with small pots of blossoming violets, was drawn by a copper burro. A large aquarium with darting gold and black fish added life and movement to another of the largest exhibits. At one side a long table was set in formal style, silver, crystal and china harmo-

nizing with Blue Reflection, Gorgeous Bi-color and Geneva Rainbow in a silver container. A small table was set for an informal luncheon.

A pleasant surprise was a luncheon given for the judges and clerks, served by Mrs. Frank Sprague.

A musical program of choice records was presented during the show.

It had been suggested the show theme be "A Violet in Every Window." A sign hung above a long table which held ideas for the use of plants in every room -- at the same time demonstrating the use of interesting containers. For the library, books on violet growing between copper book ends; a sick tray for the bedroom, brightened by a tiny pot with a pink flowering plant; for the kitchen, violets overflowing a shining copper coffee pot, with a small ceramic rolling pin beside it holding a tiny blooming plant; even an old-fashioned toothbrush mug held a violet for the bathroom -- and so throughout the house.

In one corner of the hall were mossy logs with Bambi and his friends depicted -- the rabbit and the owl, a butterfly saucily perched on Bambi's tail and violets peeping up all about in their beds of ferns and moss. This was the work of the Mallets.

In another corner the Clifford Baylors, commercial members, presented an oriental setting -- bamboo background, vine entwined screen and bamboo chairs beside the table where African violets grew in a mossy jungle.

"Many Violets in a Small Space" was the theme of Mr. E. C. Avery. A beautiful birch shelf with back and a narrow canopy holding a fluorescent light was made to screw on a wall or stand on some support. The shelf held a full size metal container with a floor covering of gravel. On this was set a full complement of violets, with two-inch pots of rooted leaves, between the larger plants; at each end from front to back, a close row of two-inch pots held leaves to be rooted.

The National point system was used by the judges, who were, of necessity, generous with their ribbons, since so many plants were really worthy. The best plant ribbon went to Mrs. Morley's Purple Lace for its size, symmetry, and bloom. The sweepstakes prize was won by Mr. and Mrs. B. Carter.

TACOMA SHOW

The Tacoma African Violet Society of Tacoma, Washington, held its second annual exhibit, May 15 and 16. A new member, Mrs. Luke Scholl, opened her attractive fur establishment for the event, a perfect setting of charming antiques in display rooms, and the long tables in the shop were easily adapted to enhance the Saintpaulia. New plants and novelties vied with the older ones in popularity.

There was the instruction table presided over by competent members, showing seeds and cuttings through all stages of growth to the flowering plant. Here also were illustrations of what not to do. The most popular room was that where rooted cuttings and small plants were sold, and the proceeds were beyond expectation.

The success was due largely to the splendid publicity and the cooperation of each member in doing her part. To name each chairman and assistants would be to name the entire membership. Mrs. D. Woodham Richards was general chairman.

NORFOLK SHOW

The Pioneer African Violet Society of Norfolk, Virginia, had a very successful show on April 10 and 11 at the Colonial Chevrolet Corporation show room. Two sections of African violets were included -- plants grown under fluorescent lights and plants grown under ordinary conditions.

Mrs. Helen Morgan, the society president, was show chairman, assisted by Mrs. R. W. Schoolcroft. Sweepstakes was won by Mrs. Morgan with thirty-three blue ribbons to her credit. Plans are now underway for a show to be held next spring.

LOUISVILLE SHOW

The African Violet Society of Louisville, Kentucky, Unit 1, was invited by the Audubon and Shawnee Garden Clubs to exhibit African violets in the flower shows staged by the two clubs.

At the first exhibit with the Audubon club the plants were displayed in three tiers of eight foot lengths covered with white paper.

At the Shawnee show the plants were displayed in many unusual individual arrangements. Mrs. Flora Hilger exhibited violets in wick-fed antique lamps; Mrs. Lila Neal had an arrangement in a large, bronze planter; Mrs. Judy Wenz, club president, made a large float covered with white crepe paper and lace and decorated with gold fish, stuffed wildlife, and old and new varieties of violets; especially outstanding was the arrangement showing violets in a natural setting, using driftwood, exhibited by Mrs. Mildred Zurschmiede, secretary and co-chairman of the show. Chairman of the show, Mrs. Edith Carpenter, exhibited an old trunk with a tray full of violets and arranged so they appeared to be pouring out of the top. Over one side was draped a silk crazy quilt.

One table was devoted to propagation methods, including seedlings in various stages of growth.

Members were on hand to answer questions and to talk to the interested persons who attended the exhibit.

Each member contributed to the show to make it a huge success and the African violet exhibit really "stole the show."

BETTER AFRICAN VIOLETS

BETTER GARDENS
with all-organic • non-burning

ATLAS FISH EMULSION

The original fish fertilizer emulsion
AT NURSERIES AND GARDEN STORES

- DE-ODORIZED
- NON-BURNING
- 100% ORGANIC

A balanced diet for Saint-paulias -- contains 22 natural trace minerals and plant food essentials. ¼ teaspoon ATLAS per quart water for AFRICAN VIOLETS -- feed 10-14 days. At Nurseries & Garden Stores

OR
Pint \$1.00
Size Postpaid

ATLAS FISH FERTILIZER CO., Dept. K
No. 1 Drumm St., San Francisco 11, Calif.

A BALANCED ORGANIC FISH FERTILIZER



PILGRIMS
learned
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AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

Mixture A --

more than fifty single flowered named varieties -- 300 seeds \$1.00.

Mixture B --

from varieties having "girl type" foliage -- 150 seeds \$1.00

Mixture C --

from single flowered varieties crossed with double flowered varieties -- 150 seeds \$2.00.

Mixture D --

from pink flowered varieties crossed with other pink or white varieties -- 150 seeds \$2.00.

FOREST MILL NURSERY

4725 E. 35th St.

Indianapolis, Ind.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

ELSIE -- A beautiful pink with orchid markings.
SIR LANCELOT AMAZON -- Very large deeply colored blossoms. Amazon foliage.

CAROL'S TREASURE -- A novelty with single to double red-orchid blossoms on same plant.

MARILYN'S ORCHID -- A beautiful semi-double rose-orchid.

Also, several new Grotei hybrids in single and doubles, both plain and girl foliage. AND many more new ones.

RETAIL Free List WHOLESALE
MAIL ORDERS VISITORS WELCOME

OPPEN GREENHOUSE

4330 Auburn Rd.

Salem, Oregon

African Violets

African Violet culture has won such enduring popularity because these lovely plants—with their exquisite blooms and wide variety of beautiful leaf shapes and textures—are so easy to grow that beginners have as many flowers as advanced collectors.



PLANTS LIKE THIS \$1.00 each

SPECIAL OFFER

To prove to you that we know how to mail African Violets to you IN PERFECT condition, we will send postpaid and guaranteed—your choice of a plant in bloom and labeled true to name—Pink, White, Light Blue, Dark Purple, Lavender at \$1.00. Or all 5 for \$4.95.

FREE African Violet CATALOG

Tells how to grow African Violets! Many varieties pictured in color. You'll want to start this delightful hobby today so write to

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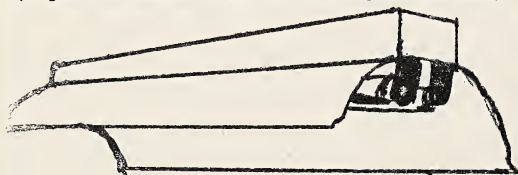
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FLUORESCENT FIXTURES

FOR 2 -- 40 WATT TUBES

(Equal to about 240 W. of regular bulbs)



\$10.00 (LESS BULBS)

With 36" rubber cord and plug

18 month guarantee for transformer

Price F. O. B., Fairview, N. J.

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MANUFACTURERS

203 BROAD AVENUE

FAIRVIEW, NEW JERSEY

Please send ☐ fixture(s) F. O. B., Fairview, N. J., as advertised, for which I enclose check or money order for \$10.00 per fixture.

Name _____

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City _____ State _____

SHOW CALENDAR

LAWRENCE KANSAS-

The Lawrence African Violet Club of Lawrence, Kansas, will hold their show at the Community Building in Lawrence, on March 26 and 27, 1955.

BEATRICE NEBRASKA-

The Beatrice African Violet Society of Beatrice, Nebraska, will hold their third annual show on April 2 and 3, 1955, in Beatrice, Nebraska.

DETROIT SHOW

The Border Cities African Violet Club of Detroit, Michigan, held their annual show in April, with approximately twenty-five hundred visitors.

The tables holding the entries were covered with white. The plants exhibited were covered first with foil, then with two shades of orchid and purple tissue, and then tied with satin ribbons in the same shades. The tables had garlands of the same colors, with satin bows holding them up at points, and runners on top of the tables carried out the color scheme.

A tiered table arrangement in the center of the auditorium was the club exhibit and was not competitive, but was designed with the thought that many people would like to see the various varieties as individual plants, well identified.

Rev. Harold Thompson was awarded the National Ribbon for the best collection of three registered varieties. His entries were: White Madonna, Navy Bouquet and Cavalier.

CANTON SHOW

The African Violet Society of Canton, Ohio, held its second show on May 14, 1954, at the home of Mrs. H. H. Bricher. The theme of the show was "The Violets May Party."

On descending the steps a table representing a May pole dance of violets met the eye. The center was a May pole surrounded by a number of dolls in pastel formals. Encircling the table were blooming girl violet plants.

In the center of the room were long tables holding violets in twenty-three classes. There were one hundred and one entries. At one end of the room were violets in combination with other plants. A tea pot with a pink violet and ivy was of unusual interest. A basket of violets, wood plants and flowers was a breath of woodland. Next to this were violets showing the theme of the show. There were unusual shaped baskets and baskets filled with different colored violets, making a very pretty picture.

The queen of the show was Ruffled Treasure, exhibited by Mrs. Bricher. It was so full of blooms it made one think of an old fashioned bouquet. Mrs. Bricher was also awarded the Gold Ribbon of the National Society for three regis-

tered plants: Blue Heiress, Robinhood and Sailors Delight were her entries.

The refreshment table was centered with a pyramid of violet plants.

Officers of the club are:

President,	Mrs. S. S. Courtney
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. I. E. Fiscus
Secretary,	Mrs. D. J. Harper
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. O. Piero

LYNCHBURG SHOW

Several hundred visitors toured the display rooms of the Moser Furniture Store, on Fifth Street, on May 12 and 13, for the opening of the annual violet show, sponsored by the First African Violet Society of Lynchburg, Virginia. Mrs. C. E. Fuller was show chairman, with Mrs. J. G. Goff, co-chairman, and Mrs. C. E. Oceracre, staging chairman.

The theme of the show, "The Twelve Months," was carried out in miniature arrangements representing events pertaining to each month. The arrangements with violets in each color class was shown against a background of pale yellow, making a display of great beauty and color harmony.

A gift table showing violets as pins, ear bobs and corsages done in ceramic, and the use of violet motifs for decorating household linens and gift wrappings held the attention of the visitors.

A group of fine plants entered by club members in the National class earned two awards. The Gold Ribbon Award was presented to Mrs. Robert Porter and the Purple Ribbon Award to Mrs. Ned Bell. Sweepstakes prize was awarded to Mrs. C. E. Fuller. Prizes were given to all blue ribbon winners.

The most outstanding plant in the show was Pink Cheer, exhibited by Mrs. Julia Thornhill.

Mrs. G. E. Phillips and Mrs. George Ross of Richmond, Virginia, were the judges.

BETTER VIOLETS with RAINBOW MINERAL

"Best in the show"

Every one would like to raise VIOLETS to win that title! Part of the secret of doing it is to give your plants loving care and the right diet.

AFRICAN VIOLETS must have not only the right light, moisture and organic food . . . but a balanced ration of essential minerals. You can be sure they have these essential minerals by applying RAINBOW MINERAL to your established and potted plants NOW. RAINBOW MINERAL will not burn and is not Toxic.

MIX RAINBOW MINERAL in the soil when transplanting and re-potting your plants this year.

PRICE only -- \$.65 -- 1 pound box

\$1.50 -- 5 pound box

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WILLIAMSVILLE 21, N. Y.

Out Main St. (Rt. 5), to Union Rd. (18b)
North one mile

Mrs. C. F. Richard Phone PL 1949

We specialize in new and unusual varieties -- also large specimen plants.

WE DO NOT SHIP

Closed Thursdays -- except by appointment

NOW READY AUTHENTIC AFRICAN VIOLET HANDKERCHIEFS . . .

Designed from winning plants at the African Violet Convention in St. Louis.

PURE IRISH LINEN -- HANDROLLED --
16 inches Square.

3 designs in PINK -- PARMA PURPLE --
PERRYWINKLE.

PATRICIA GRAY ENTERPRISES SHERMAN, CONN.

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COLORS _____ NO. _____

\$1.00 each -- \$10.00 per dozen

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Send postal card for a wee sample and information about my trial offer. (I'll also send you a sample copy of my Midget Garden Magazine — "CABBAGES AND THINGS.")

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THE FRIENDLIEST GREETINGS
OF THE SEASON

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

In 1955 we will start shipping rooted leaves.

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PHILLIPSBURG, NEW JERSEY



I-BOMB
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This powerful spray insecticide kills mealy bugs, aphids, white flies, thrip and other plant insects. Just press the button! A fine spray kills instantly. I-BOMB, manufactured by horticultural experts, is economical for one or many plants. It's recommended for African Violets, ivies, and other garden and house plants. Won't burn bloom or foliage. Harmless to pets and children. \$1.59 at your dealer . . . or order direct.

PLANT MARVEL LABORATORIES

Dept. PG-34, 622 West 119th St., Chicago 28, Ill.

PORTLAND SHOW

The third annual African violet show of the Portland Chapter of the African Violet Society of America was held May 1 and 2. Fairy Tales was the theme of the show which was carried out in the show program and in two classifications. The novel planting of Mrs. H. L. Barchus of Ocean Park, Washington, depicting the "Old Woman in the Shoe" took first place in Arrangements in the Fairy Tale Theme. Other arrangements were "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary" and others.

Sweepstakes winner this year was Mrs. Mae Spellman with her firsts for Pansy Beauty, Double Neptune, Holly and Periwinkle. Also her second prize winners of Portland Rose and Ruffled Queen. Mrs. Spellman also took prizes for the largest plant in the show, Periwinkle, and for her Pansy Beauty which took the prize for the best plant in the show. She has two more years to go to keep that pretty gold sweepstakes cup. For this year, the president, Mrs. Florence Myers with her board, and the show chairman, Mrs. Loa Shilts, inaugurated this cup which will have to be won for three years straight before it may be kept.

For the past two years ribbons have been given for prizes. This year clever little plastic loving cups with blue, red, yellow and white ribbons on one handle indicating first, second, third and honorable mention were given.

Tiered tables along the walls, draped with turquoise paper set off the blues, purples, whites, pinks and the many other hues of the African violets to advantage. The center tables were arranged in an X with a round table in the center displaying African violets in a strawberry jar.

THE END

SAINTPAULIAS EPISCIAS DAYLILIES

Winter shipping -- South in mild spells. 12 African Violets, labeled, different \$4.50. Leaves: 10/1.25. Stamp for list.

A. V. and Giant Hybrid Gloxinia seeds 50¢ pkgs. (150 seeds), \$1.00 pkgs. (400). Daylilies: 1-yr. seedlings 12/\$1.75. Episcias shipped April: 4 different \$2.30. Daylily seed: 50/\$1.00 (hand-crossed).

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves, new varieties and old varieties
COLLECTION OF 200, OR MORE

MRS. SUSIE THOMPSON

BOX No. 105

BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

PITTSBURGH CONVENTION

APRIL 14, 15, 16, 1955

WILLIAM PENN HOTEL

PITTSBURGH, PENNA.

CALL FOR 1955 MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be held on Saturday, April 16, 1955, at the William Penn Hotel, for the transaction of the following business:

- 1 - To vote on the revised By-Laws.
- 2 - To hear the reports of Officers, Directors and Committees of the Society and to act thereon.
- 3 - To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Sincerely yours,
FLOYD L. JOHNSON

SHOW SCHEDULE

"PITTSBURGH SWINGS THE GATES WIDE OPEN"

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

STAGED BY — AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

WILLIAM PENN HOTEL — PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA — APRIL 14, 15, 1955

AMATEUR DIVISION

SECTION I Specimen plants (classes 1 through 12 must be single crown named African violets)

- CLASS 1** Dark Blues or Purples
2 Medium Blues
3 Light Blues
4 Reds to Violets
5 Lavenders and Orchids
6 Bi-Colors (such as Bi-Color, Violet Beauty)
7 Two Tones (variegated, such as Painted Girl, Geneva, Gorgeous Blue Wonder, etc.)
8 Pinks
9 Whites
10 Duponts, Amazons and Supremes
11 Doubles
12 Collection of 3 registered different named varieties (See rule 12)
13 Novelties (albinos, variegated foliages, miniatures, etc.)
14 Specimen Seedlings (never exhibited before at a National Convention Show)
15 Specimen plant African violet species (such as *S. grotei*, *S. tongwensis*, etc.)
16 Specimen plant Gesneriaceae family, (*Achimenes*, *Episcias*, *Gloxinias*, etc.)
17 Amateur greenhouse grown specimen plant any variety (See Lord and Burnham Award)

SECTION II Arrangements

- CLASS 18** Artistic arrangement of a collection of 3 -- 7 plants (not to exceed 30" square)
19 An arrangement of pink African violets to be exhibited in a lighted circle, 7" in diameter, with a midnight blue background (See rule 13) 12 Entries
20 A line arrangement using driftwood, any foliage, and African violet plants, to be exhibited in a niche, 24" high, 20" wide, 12" deep (See rule 13) 8 Entries
21 An arrangement using a cup and saucer, other flowers and foliage permitted, with African violets predominating. (See rule 13) 14 Entries
22 A flower plaque, African violets predominating, to be exhibited against a background 20" wide x 24" high. 8 Entries (See rule 13)
23 Invitation class. A composition of any cut plant material, African violets predominating, to be placed in a niche 24" x 20" x 12", suggesting the Convention theme. Light blue background. 8 Entries (See rule 14)

SECTION III Year Books

- CLASS 24** Year Books (See rule 15)

SPECIAL AWARDS -- AMATEUR DIVISION

ALMA WRIGHT CASH AWARD of \$25.00 for best specimen of the named variety, Alma Wright.

BEHNKE NURSERIES GRAND SWEEPSTAKES AWARD for most first (Classes 1 through 21) -- \$25.00, for second most blue ribbons -- \$15.00, for third most blue ribbons -- \$10.00

BOYCE M. EDENS AWARD. A cash award of \$25.00 will be given by Mrs. Sam Nichols for the best plant of the named variety Boyce M. Edens.

DAVIDSON COUNTY SOCIETY OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS AWARD of \$25.00 for the best specimen plant in the pink class number 8.

FIRST SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF NASHVILLE SILVER BOWL AWARD for the most outstanding seedling or mutation never before exhibited in National Convention shows.

FLOWER GROWER STERLING SILVER PLATE AWARD for Affiliated Chapter leadership.

1. This award to be given to any individual member of an Affiliated Chapter for outstanding leadership in promoting all phases of the Chapter's activities in accordance with the objectives of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.
- 2, The Affiliated Chapter chairman shall submit to the Chairman of Awards, the candidate's name and address and list of accomplishments not later than January 1, 1955.

GEORGE W. KOCH SONS COMPANY AWARD to runner-up of the Silver Cup, or second best (Classes 1 through 11) a metal plant stand.

LORD & BURNHAM GREENHOUSE AWARD of \$25.00 for the best amateur greenhouse grown named variety African violet exhibited at 1955 Convention amateur show. (See class 17.)

POPULAR GARDENING MAGAZINE SWEEPSTAKES AWARD for most blue ribbons. (Class 1 through 11) Sterling Silver bowl.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE CROSS HYBRID AWARD sponsored by the Research Committee of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Members or non-members of the Society will be awarded \$25.00 for the best entry of a plant, or plants, resulting from a cross of any genus of the Gesneria family, like Achimenes or Gloxinias on the genus Saintpaulia (African violet). This exhibit to be judged by the Research Committee and must give visual indication that it is a successful cross genus hybrid showing some characteristics of the other Gesneria hybrid.

ROSE ACRES NURSERIES AWARD for artistic arrangement of from 3 -- 7 African violet plants as one unit or arrangement. (Class 18) size not to exceed 30" square. \$25.00 for first, \$15.00 for second, \$10.00 for third.

STIMUPLANT LABORATORIES PLAQUE AND \$50.00 AWARD for best registered named variety in specimen classes one through 11. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in dark blue or purple, Class 1. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in reds to violets Class 4. Plaque and \$25.00 for best specimen plant in white Class 9.

TINARI FLORAL GARDENS AWARD of \$50.00 to be placed on the following Tinari introductions: \$10.00 on each of the best Clementine, Pink Luster, Navy Bouquet, America and Sugar Plum Girl.

TUBE CRAFT FLORAL CART AWARD for the three best specimen plants (1 true purple, 1 pink, and 1 white -- any variety) scoring the highest points, each plant must score 85 points. These plants to be entered in the regular classes for specimen plants.

YEAR BOOK AWARDS given by the African Violet Magazine for the best year books of any African Violet Club. First prize \$5.00, second, \$3.00 and third \$2.00.

SOCIETY AWARDS

THE SILVER CUP of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be awarded to the best registered named variety in specimen classes (class 1 through 11) of the amateur division.

AWARD OF MERIT RIBBON will be given to the runner-up or second best registered named variety in the specimen classes. (Class 1 through 11.)

HONORABLE MENTION RIBBON will be given to the third best registered named variety in the specimen classes. (Class 1 through 11.)

GOLD RIBBON AWARD or first award may be given to the best collection of three registered named varieties of African violets exhibited in the National Convention show.

PURPLE AWARD or second award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., may be given to the second best collection of three named registered varieties of African violets exhibited in the National Convention show.

COMMERCIAL SILVER CUP to the best commercial exhibit.

SCHEDULE AND AWARDS FOR COMMERCIAL EXHIBITING

CLASS 1

All exhibits to be judged. Blue first, Red second and White third.

CLASS 2

Best grown group of plants either new or old varieties not less than 15 plants.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second, White Rosette third.

CLASS 3

Best staged exhibit.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second, White Rosette third.

CLASS 4

Seedlings actually hybridized by exhibitor or released rights given exhibitor and not previously exhibited or judged.

Blue first, Red second and White third.

CLASS 5

Sport or Mutant to have been discovered by exhibitor or persons connected with business. Not previously judged or exhibited.

CLASS 6

Only winners in Class 4 and 5 to participate in Class 6.

Blue Rosette first, Red Rosette second and White Rosette third.

SILVER TROPHY

The Commercial Silver Trophy will be awarded to the best Commercial Exhibit of African violets in a Convention Show. The Trophy becomes the permanent possession of the exhibitor that wins it three times.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS CONTACT THE
CHAIRMAN:**

MRS. JOHN A. LANDAKER
2339 GRIGG AVE.
CINCINNATI 7, OHIO

ADVANCE REGISTRATION BLANK

Name _____

Address _____

Registration for the entire Convention, including the Show, Thursday Dinner Meeting, Friday Luncheon Meeting and Friday Banquet Meeting is \$18.20.

Please send your reservation in before March 15, 1955. If you cannot attend the entire Convention, please check below the meetings you will attend. We MUST know definitely how many to prepare for. One registration admits both husband and wife when either is a member.

_____ Registration fee for the entire Convention	\$5.00
_____ Registration fee for one day only	\$3.00
_____ Registration fee for one single meeting	\$1.50
_____ Thursday Dinner Meeting	\$4.95
_____ Friday Luncheon Meeting	\$3.30
_____ Friday Banquet Meeting	\$4.95

SIGN and send your reservation in not later than March 15, 1955, to the registration chairman:

MRS. RENE EDMUNDSON, 417 ARLINGTON AVE., EAST McKEESPORT, PENNA.

Reservations will not be honored without remittance. Do assist the committee and simplify registration by sending a check or money order with your reservation. Your tickets, badge, program, etc., will be ready for you on your arrival. If circumstances make it necessary to change your plans, contact the registration chairman before April 11, 1955, and your money will be refunded.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

SPECIAL MENU NOTICE

The management of the William Penn Hotel requests that if fish is desired for Friday meals that you check the enclosure and mail it to Mrs. Rene Edmundson with your reservation.

_____ Fish for Friday Luncheon Meeting and Banquet.
_____ Special Diabetic Menu.

TOUR

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1955

Tour of Pittsburgh and Tea at Phipps Conservatory \$1.50.

Reservation may not be cancelled after April 6, 1955.

No reservations will be accepted after March 15, 1955.

ATTENTION QUALIFIED JUDGES: All qualified judges (not student judges) who plan to attend the Pittsburgh Convention and desire to judge in the Amateur Show, please fill out the blank and send to Mrs. James B. Carey (RUTH G.) 3900 Garden Drive, Fountain City, Tenn., not later than April 1, 1955.

Name _____

Address _____

African Violet

M A G A Z I N E

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AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All requests for hotel accommodations for the African Violet Society of America's Annual Meeting should be made to the William Penn Hotel.

WILLIAM PENN HOTEL

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

PLEASE RESERVE ACCOMMODATIONS AS CHECKED (✓)

Name _____
(Please Print)

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Date arriving _____ a. m. _____ p. m. Date departing _____ a. m. _____ p. m.

Unless requested otherwise, we will hold your reservation until 4:00 p.m. the day of your arrival.

SINGLE BED—BATH		7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	8.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
One Person—per day		7.25	<input type="checkbox"/>	9.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOUBLE BED—BATH				10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Two Persons—per day	9.50	<input type="checkbox"/>		10.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
				12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
TWIN BEDS—BATH		11.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	13.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Two Persons—per day		12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	14.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
				15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
				16.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parlor and Twin Bedroom—Bath	23.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	27.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	31.00
SUITES				43.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parlor and Two Twin Bedrooms—Bath				46.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Third person in room -- \$3.00 additional. Reservations assigned at next available rate when indicated rate not obtainable.

HOTEL WILLIAM PENN

PITTSBURGH, PENNA.

Detach and mail to RUTH G. CAREY, 3900 GARDEN AVE. FOUNTAIN CITY, TENN.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION FOR TEACHERS

WILLIAM PENN HOTEL, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1955

Class will be held from 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon. Registration fee, \$1.00.

Name _____

Address _____

Sign the above blank and send your registration fee of \$1.00 to Ruth G. Carey, 3900 Garden Avenue, Fountain City, Tennessee -- not later than April 1, 1955, if you wish to attend the school. Make registration fee check payable to African Violet Society of America, Inc. Those eligible to attend are teachers already qualified, and those judges who made a grade of 90 or above on their judging school examination.

SHOW

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries must be made between 1:00 -- 4:00p. m., Wednesday, April 13, 1955, and Thursday, April 14, 1955, between 10:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m. Judging will be from 6:30 -- 8:30 p. m.
2. Plants arriving too late to be entered will be shown for exhibition only.
3. Only clean healthy plants will be accepted, and must have been in the exhibitor's possession at least three months.
4. An exhibitor can make only one entry in each variety (that is, one Blue Boy, one Pink Cheer, etc.)
5. Each variety entered must be correctly named or subject to correction by the Classification Committee.
6. The Society will afford all possible protection to exhibits, but will not be responsible for any loss.
7. All plants entered in Section I, Class 1 through 14 must be single crown plants.
8. If an exhibit is not entered by the owner, the name of such person making the entry must be on the back of the entry tag.
9. For uniformity all pots must be covered with aluminum foil. Exhibitors are to print their names on adhesive tape, and attach to bottom of foil covered pots.
10. All entries in both Amateur Show and Commercial Exhibits may be removed from 11:00 -- 12:00 p. m., Friday, April 15, 1955, and from 9:00 -- 12:00 a. m., Saturday, April 16, 1955. In order to provide protection to the exhibitors, the amateur exhibitor's membership card must be checked against the entry card.
11. The show will be judged on the merit basis, and the decision of the judges will be final. Only qualified judges of the Society will be permitted to judge.
12. All members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will be permitted to enter in Class 12. Clubs with members desiring to compete for this award must make application to the Corresponding Secretary of "African Violet Society of America, Inc.," 30 days in advance of show date, stating that they are conforming to the requirements of the National Society in the giving of Gold and Purple Ribbons at the Convention show. Each of these plants will be point scored by the judges, and must score 90 points each.
13. The Staging Committee has set up space for a limited number of entries to be exhibited in Classes 19 through 22, therefore advance registration must be made in these classes not later than April 6, 1955, to Mrs. Neil B. Duncan, 4518 Lawnview Drive, Pittsburgh 27, Pennsylvania.
14. In Class 23, entries will be received by invitation only.
15. All club year books entered in Class 24 must be sent to Mrs. David Cubbage, 403 McElheney Road, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania, not later than April 6, 1955. These books must be no larger than 5 x 8 inches, being the same book as all club members receive, and once entered become the property of the Society and will not be returned. It is not compulsory for clubs entering books to be Affiliated with the National Society.

By-Laws of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Organized November 8, 1946

Incorporated June 30, 1947

To be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting, April, 1955

ARTICLE I

Name

This Society shall be known as the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

ARTICLE II

Corporate Seal

It shall have a Corporate Seal, which shall be deposited with the President of the Society.*

ARTICLE III

Objects

The objects of the Society shall be to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in the African violet (Saintpaulia); to stimulate an interest in its propagation and culture; to encourage the origination of improved varieties; to promote methods for distribution of all varieties and species; and to gather and publish reliable, practical information concerning its culture and propagation.

ARTICLE IV

Membership and Dues

Section 1

All dues shall coincide with the fiscal year which shall be from January 1st to December 31st.

Section 2

All persons who are interested in the African violet shall be eligible to membership in the Society, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3

There shall be seven (7) classes of membership in the Society as follows: Individual, Commercial, Research, Sustaining, Life, Honorary Life and Affiliated Club.

Individual Membership . . . Individual members pay \$3.00 per year or \$8.50 for three years, payable in advance. A joint membership with one voting privilege may be held by husband and wife.

Commercial Membership . . . Commercial members shall be all persons or firms who annually sell one thousand or more African violet plants or leaf cuttings of same, or who manufacture or sell fertilizer, disease and insect control materials and equipment, tools or any other merchandise pertaining to growing African violets, amounting to \$1,000.00 or more per year.

They shall pay \$10.00 per year, of which \$7.00 shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

Research Membership . . . Research members shall pay a minimum of \$20.00 for each twelve month period of membership, and at least 85% of each membership paid shall be applied to the Research Fund of the Society.

Sustaining Membership . . . Sustaining members pay a minimum of \$10.00 per year.

Life Membership . . . The payment of \$50.00 or more shall entitle any person to Life membership, and Life members shall be exempt from further dues.

Honorary Life Membership . . . Honorary Life membership may be given a member for exceptional service and devotion to the Society by action of the Board of Directors. She shall retain all privileges of membership and shall be exempt from further dues.

Affiliated Chapter Membership . . . Any member of an Affiliated Chapter who is also a member of African Violet Society of America, Inc., pays local dues to her club, of which \$2.50 must be remitted annually, by said club, to the Treasurer.

Section 4

Termination of Membership

The Board of Directors may revoke the membership and return dues to any member for just cause.

ARTICLE V

Affiliated Chapters

Qualifications for Affiliation are as follows:

- At least twenty-five per cent of each chapter's local members must also be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.
- All Officers of each Affiliated Chapter must be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.
- Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its Constitution and By-Laws, and all amendments thereto to the Affiliated Chapter Chairman of African Violet Society of America, Inc.

*This Corporate Seal shall be designed by the Board of Directors and presented for adoption at the 1955 Convention.

- Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its entire membership including a list of the names and addresses of its officers to the Affiliated Chapter Chairman of African Violet Society of America, Inc., such list to designate those local members who are also members of the National Society. These lists shall be submitted once each year immediately after the election of new officers of Affiliated Chapters.

- Each Affiliated Chapter must pay to African Violet Society of America, Inc., an annual membership fee of \$2.50 plus per capita dues. This shall be remitted to the Treasurer by January 1st.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

Section 1

The Officers of the Society shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2

Elections

These Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Membership.

Section 3

Terms of Office

The term of office for these Officers shall be one year, beginning immediately following the Annual Meeting at which they are elected. No Officer shall serve in the same office more than two terms.

Section 4

Duties of Officers

President . . . The President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society; shall preside at all meetings of the Membership, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee; shall keep informed of all work of the Society and shall make such reports thereon to the Board of Directors and to the membership of the Society as may be deemed necessary or as the Board may require. She shall be member ex-officio of all committees, except the Nominating Committee. An annual written report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

First Vice-President . . . The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of the latter or whenever the President may be unable to perform the duties of this office. An annual written report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

Second Vice-President . . . The Second Vice-President shall serve as President in the absence of the President and the First Vice-President. She shall serve as Chairman of Councilors. An annual report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

Recording Secretary . . . The Recording Secretary shall keep in permanent form the minutes of Annual and Special Meetings of the membership, also, those of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. An annual written report shall be filed. She shall be custodian of all records of the Society.

Corresponding Secretary . . . The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all correspondence authorized by the President or the Board of Directors. An annual written report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

Treasurer . . . The Treasurer shall receive and disburse by check all funds of the Society as specified by the Board of Directors, in cooperation with the Budget Committee. All checks issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and co-signed by the President, or by the First Vice-President in the absence or inability of the President to act. In an emergency any two of the three officers above may sign and co-sign Society checks. All dues shall be paid direct to the Treasurer, accompanied by four duplicate copies of membership. She shall retain one and send the others to the Membership Chairman, Affiliated Chapter Chairman and Publications Chairman, respectively.

The Treasurer shall keep an accurate Book Record of all funds and transactions of the Society; and shall submit financial reports as are required by the Board of Directors. An annual audit shall be made of the Treasurer's books and records by a Certified Public Accountant and such report rendered to the Board of Directors and to the annual meeting of the Society, this report to be filed with the Recording Secretary.

The Treasurer shall be bonded for such sum as the Board of Directors shall authorize, and this premium and cost of the audit shall be included in the annual operating budget. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

ARTICLE VII

Executive Committee

Section 1

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Society and the Editor of Publications.

Section 2

Duties

This Committee shall transact the business of the Society between meeting of the Board of Directors. All action taken by this committee shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at its following meeting.

Section 3

Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet at any time at the call of the President or at the written request of any three members. In order to poll opinion the Committee shall have authority to put questions to the Board of Directors by mail.

Section 4

Quorum

A quorum for these meetings shall be three (3) members.

ARTICLE VIII

Board of Directors

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers, the immediate past President of the Society, the Chairman of all Standing Committees, twelve (12) members at large and the Editor of Publications.

Section 2

Vacancies

Vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by the President until the next Annual Meeting of the Society.

Section 3

Duties

The Board of Directors is responsible for the entire management and operation of the Society between annual meetings.

Section 4

Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held upon the call of the President, or the Directors may establish regular dates for meetings. Meetings of the Board also may be called by a request therefor signed by a majority of the members of the Board and filed with the Secretary, who shall thereupon call a meeting of the Board. Notices of all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be sent by the President at least thirty (30) days before the date of the meetings. In the event of an emergency a poll of opinion, by mail upon any question within the jurisdiction of the Board, may be requested by the Executive Committee. A Parliamentarian shall be present at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 5

Expenses

A sum shall be allowed to cover reasonable traveling expenses of the Officers and Chairmen of the Standing Committees while engaged in travel on essential business of the Society, as authorized by the President.

Section 6

Quorum

At any meeting of the Board of Directors eleven (11) members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX

Members at Large

Section 1

The members at large shall be twelve (12) in number, one of whom shall be a resident of the Dominion of Canada.

Section 2

Term of Office

At a regular annual meeting of the Society, four (4) members at large shall be elected for three (3) years.

ARTICLE X

Standing Committees

Section 1

Standing Committees shall be: Affiliated Chapters, Awards, Budget and Finance, Convention, Membership, Nominating, Publications, Registration, Research, Show and Judging and such others as may be required in operation of the Society.

Section 2

Funds

Chairmen of these Committees shall be allowed by the Budget Committee a fund to carry on their work. They shall include in their annual report an accounting of this fund.

Section 3

Term of Office

The Chairman and other members of these committees shall be appointed annually by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chairman of Publications, who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. All standing committees are automatically terminated 30 days after the annual meeting, at which time the Chairmen shall turn over to their successors all materials pertaining to their offices.

Section 4

Duties of Chairmen

Affiliated Chapter Chairman . . . The Affiliated Chapter Chairman shall keep a record of Affiliated Chapters, their membership, officers and By-Laws. For complete information on Affiliated Chapters, refer to Article V.

Awards Chairman . . . The Chairman of Awards and her Committee shall select from names recommended to them, members to receive awards, making such selections conform to regulations set up by the Board. The only exception shall be Honorary Life Membership, which award shall be made by the Executive Board. An annual written report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

Budget and Finance Chairman . . . The Chairman of Budget and Finance shall prepare the annual budget for the operation of the Society for each fiscal year, including necessary expense of the African Violet Magazine, official publication of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. The Treasurer of the Society shall be a member of this committee. An annual written report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary of the Society.

Convention Chairman . . . The Convention Chairman shall act in advisory capacity between the Executive Board and the local Convention Chairman.

Membership Chairman . . . The Membership Chairman shall receive from the Treasurer lists of all paid memberships, shall file these with honorary memberships and issue membership cards. She shall receive notification of changes of address and shall inform the Treasurer, Affiliated Chapter Chairman and Publications Chairman of these changes. An annual report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

Nominating Committee Chairman . . . The Committee on Nominations shall consist of five (5) members, two of whom shall be from the Board of Directors. These five members shall be chosen from the different sections of the country and appointed annually.

Publication Chairman . . . The Chairman of Publication shall prepare and issue all the publications of the Society that the Board of Directors or the President may authorize to be published. An annual written financial report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary, also a written financial report shall be submitted to the Treasurer to be included in the Annual audit.

Registration Chairman . . . The Registration Chairman shall receive applications for name registrations and fees and shall investigate and issue registration cards according to rules set up by the Executive Board. An annual written report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

Research Chairman . . . The Research Chairman and her Committee shall prepare for presentation to the Board recommendation on Research. An annual written report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

Show and Judging School Chairman . . . The Show and Judging School Chairman shall present for Board approval rules for judging schools, judging school teachers and judges. She shall have supervision of National Amateur Convention Shows. She shall issue and record teachers and judges certificates. An annual written report shall be filed with the Recording Secretary.

ARTICLE XI

Councilors

Section 1

There shall be one or more Councilors for each state and Canada.

Section 2

Term of Office

These Councilors shall be appointed annually by the President.

Section 3

Duties of Councilors

These Councilors shall serve under the Second Vice-President in the promotion of the activities of the Society, assist in the formation of new clubs, obtain desirable material for official publications and bring recommendations to the Nominating Committee. They shall submit annual written reports to the Second Vice-President to be included with her report to the Recording Secretary.

ARTICLE XII

Meetings and Voting

Section 1

Notification

Notices of all Annual and Special Meetings of the Membership of the Society shall be sent upon the authorization of the President at least thirty (30) days in advance of

the date of such meetings. All such notices shall state the time and place of the meetings, and the business to be transacted. All such notices may be sent by mail to each member, addressed to his last known residence or business address; or such notices may be given to each member by publication in the African Violet Magazine, provided such issue of the Magazine is published and mailed at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date of the meeting to the last known home or business address of each member of the Society.

Section 2

Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place each year as the Board of Directors shall determine. Time shall be allowed for a brief report from each Officer and Standing Committee Chairman.

Section 3

Special Meetings

Special Meetings not to exceed two (2) in any calendar year may be called at any time by the Board of Directors or by the President.

Section 4

Voting

Individual Member . . . Each member of the Society shall be entitled to one vote on all matters brought before the Society. Husband and wife holding a joint membership are entitled to only one vote.

Affiliated Chapter . . . Each Affiliated Chapter shall be entitled to one vote, cast by its designated delegate.

Proxy Vote . . . Any member may vote by proxy. Any person who acts under a proxy shall vote in accordance with the member's instructions.

Section 5

Quorum

Fifty (50) members shall constitute a quorum at all Annual and Special Meetings of the Society.

Section 6

Parliamentarian

A Parliamentarian shall be present at Annual and Special meetings of the Society.

ARTICLE XIII

Funds

Section 1

Disbursement

- a. The current funds of the Society shall be expended by the Treasurer as provided in Article VI, Section 4.
- b. Neither the Board of Directors, nor anyone delegated by them, nor any of the Officers, shall incur any debt or liability in the name of the Society beyond the available or maturing funds in the hands of the Treasurer, excluding the money or securities held for specific purposes.

Section 2

Investment

All funds received for Life Membership dues shall be invested by the Treasurer, as directed by the Board of Directors, and only the interest accruing therefrom shall be used for the current expenses of the Society.

Section 3

Annual Dues

Refer to Article IV.

Section 4

Convention Funds

Any profit derived from a National Convention shall revert to the National Treasury.

ARTICLE XIV

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all members present and voting, either in person or by proxy; provided a copy of such amendment shall have been given the members of the Society thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting, with the provisions of Article XII, Section 1, of these By-Laws.

Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws of The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

To be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting, April, 1955

1. Article VI, Section 2, should be amended by eliminating "not including ex officio members," so that the sentence shall read:

"Ten (10) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum at all meetings."

2. Article VII, Section 1, should be amended by eliminating the second sentence and substituting the following:

"Their terms of office shall begin immediately after the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they are elected and they shall serve until their successors are elected and take office, except that the officers elected at the annual meeting of 1954 and who took office on January 1, 1955 shall serve until the conclusion of the annual meeting of 1956."

3. Article VII, Section 2, shall be amended by adding the following sentence:

"Their terms of office shall begin immediately after the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they are elected and they shall serve until their successors are elected and take office, except that the directors elected at the annual meeting of 1954 shall serve until the conclusion of the annual meeting of 1958 and the directors elected at the annual meeting of 1953 shall serve until the conclusion of the annual meeting of 1957 and the directors elected at the annual meeting of 1952 shall serve until the conclusion of the annual meeting of 1956."

LITTLE VISTAS . . .

BOY AND GIRL VIOLETS

Robert Hunter, Daytona Beach, Florida

Sunday News Journal

We were introduced to the African violet by Mrs. Edgar C. Brown. She asked us to come up to her place at 1634 Riverside Drive, Holly Hill.

She has a neat little sign outside her neat little house which says simply, African Violets. We've seen other similar signs from time to time, and just the other day while I was eating lunch, an out of State automobile went by which said African Violets on its front door.

It seems that African violets get a strange, unsuspecting hold on people. You never see any signs that say Pansies. Or Brown Eyed Susans. Or Geraniums. Well, almost never. But every once in a while those African violet signs crop up.

African violet societies are springing up all over the United States. What the situation is in Africa, I do not know. Mrs. Brown says she'll take part in forming a small society here if sufficient interest is shown.

It was something of a surprise to me -- right after reading the summary of Dr. Kinsey's report on women -- to hear from Mrs. Brown that African violets are of two general types. The Boy type and the Girl type.

Nothing to do with sex, though. Seems the first African violet that adopted a family in this country was called a Blue Boy. Then through a biological sport came another variety with a markedly different leaf and it was called Blue Girl. And ever since then there have been Boy violets and Girl violets of the African violet family -- only they aren't really violets at all.

That sounds as though the African violet is a confusing plant, but it may simply be that it is the humans who are confused. Very possibly the violet knows it isn't a violet and that its boy plants and its girl plants have no sex differences.

It is a real clever plant. I spoke of it adopting families. Mrs. Brown says a lot of people develop an unusual attachment for their African violets.

She has nearly one hundred blooming plants now, and they are about to burst the confines of a little greenhouse that Mr. Brown built for them next to the garage.

"I put the sign out front with the idea of sharing some of my plants with other people," Mrs. Brown said, "but I don't really like to sell them. It always seems that the very one someone wants to buy is one of my favorites." She picked up potted plants now and then, naming

each one as though it were one of her first graders up in the Ormond Schhol where she teaches. Obviously she has a very real feeling for these African violets.

I suspect this is in large part due to the helplessness of Little Boy and Girl violets. They can't shift for themselves; they are dependent on human friends. They must have just exactly the right amount of water; exactly the right amount of sunshine; exactly the right amount of fertilizer.

After you have lavished that much care on something, it isn't surprising that you feel just a bit more than ordinary attachment for it.

THE END



Wrought iron flat, graceful tree-type stand
Height 45 inches, width 23 inches, ten 5 inch rings,
can be used against wall or window. Black \$22.95,
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Shipping weight approximately 18 pounds

Just one of our many beautifully designed African
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PLANTS LEAVES SEED

Orchard Nursery

4009 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, Calif.

Confusing, Isn't It?

Mildred Stubbs, Twin Peaks, Calif.

(This is a delightful story and is especially recommended by your editor to collectors both old and new)

I wonder how many experienced African violet growers can remember when they were beginners and how confusing it was, or am I the only one who has experienced this trouble?

My introduction to these lovely things started several months ago when I was ill and the Eastern Star gave me a White Lady as a gift. As I lay there and watched each little blossom open and grow larger as it aged, finally to drop off and be discarded as a new one took its place, I became so intrigued that I could tell my friends the life expectancy of each flower. Undoubtedly many of them thought I was becoming "stir-crazy" from being confined so long, but nevertheless I made up my mind that as soon as I could I was going to have lots more African violets. Had I known then the trials, tribulations and confusion that was to follow this decision I probably would have had a complete relapse, but little did I suspect I had been bitten by the "bug."

As soon as I was able to drive the car, I took off on an African Violet Spree. Each grower that advertised or was mentioned by a friend was visited, questioned and pinned down for all the information I could get. I bought African violets -- and I mean bought African violets. Now when I look at some of them I wonder whatever possessed me to buy that particular one when it's a twin to another, the only difference I can see being the name on the label. However, I met many fast-talking salesmen, and being African violet crazy I was easy prey.

Any magazine, paper or pamphlet that had as much as a hint on "the growing and care of African violets" was bought. Post-cards were sent by the dozens to growers for their lists and prices. Fertilizers began arriving in bottles, cans, bags and boxes. I bought them all, I was going to be sure. The one thing that I am now sure of is, I have enough fertilizer to last me for the next five years, regardless of how many African violets I grow.

About this time my husband became interested, not in African violets alone, but in me and African violets united. I'm sure his interest was started the night one of my precious babies, for no apparent reason, toppled from the television set right in the middle of his favorite "who-dun-it" program. With me bobbing up and down and scurrying around, trying to save my Hearts Desire and at the same time scrape the mud from the Oriental, I doubt very much if he, to this day, knows "who-did-it," and frankly I have no plans now or in the future of asking him.

My husband is a very fair and considerate person of his family and their hobbies, so, one evening when he suggested we have a talk on the plant situation in our home, I was a little reluctant but did agree. He explained to me he thought the way I was buying plants was all wrong, since I knew so little about them and had so many that seemed to be duplicates. He suggested I join the African Violet Society of America and receive their magazine from which I should be able to secure much information as to the culture and varieties of violets. He also suggested I find one or two reputable dealers fairly close to home that would help me select plants for my collection suitable to the limited space in which I had to grow them.

Being an obedient (?) wife, and perhaps a little upset after the Hearts Desire episode, I took his advice. My collection has now lost its haphazard look and has acquired a neat and orderly appearance that fools people into thinking I know more about African violets than I actually do. This leads me to wonder if anyone has ever reached a saturation point in their knowledge of African violets. Each plant that I secure presents entirely new problems that must be handled in completely different manners.

Fertilizers have been my Jonah; and believe me I speak with authority, as I have a closet full. Is fertilizer the deep dark mystery of the African violet universe that determines if you are to be a success or failure? Is this the great secret that some have found but are unwilling to divulge for fear of having their heads lopped off at the Great Court of Gesneriaceae? I have visited many people who raise exquisite African violets; and each time I have asked what fertilizer they use, they look at me as though I have asked them what their bank balance is, and after much spitting and sputtering come forth with some inane answer that even a person of the lowest mentality would know was wrong. Cabbage juice is a fine example of one of the many answers I have received. Consequently my plants are fed as a new mother feeds her first born, strictly by a formula I have concocted myself from books I have read.

Well do I remember the day I was mixing a fish fertilizer and the cat was sitting at my feet enjoying each drop that spilled, when my husband came in. After looking the situation over very carefully he remarked that if the African violets liked my brew as well as the cat I should be the champion grower in these parts of both cats and violets. "Sorta like killing two birds with one stone," he grinned.

To a beginner, another confusing thing is plant names. I have a Red Bird that is, as far as I can tell, identical to my Mentor Boy, yet when I speak to growers about this, they assure me there is a difference. I have an Amethyst and a Jessie that could be twins, but again I am assured they are different. How, oh how, are beginners to differentiate between these varieties? Does this knowledge come only with years of African violet growing or have too many people been crossing too many varieties in too many parts of the country?

Now you understand why I am a confused beginner, though still happy with all my trials and tribulations.

You ask what I did with my duplicate plants when I made my collection over? Very simple! I have lots of friends and relatives with anniversaries and birthdays, so I simply removed the name tags, put a big bow on the pot and gave them away. I figured if this one little plant carried the African violet "bug" to them, they might as well be as confused as I am. Besides, you remember the old adage -- "misery loves company."

THE END

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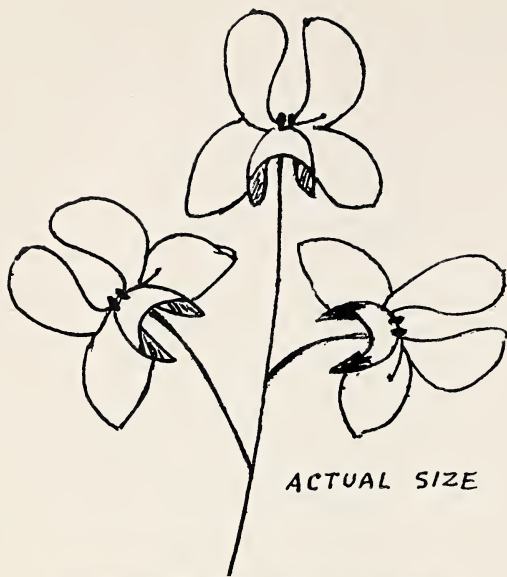
IF YOU HAVE AFRICAN VIOLETS . .

or other house plants you should have D-X Aero Spray -- the new low-pressure aerosol spray that makes it easy to kill insects. It will keep your African Violets clean, healthy -- and lovelier than ever before! Excellent for Begonias, Ferns, Ivy etc. -- and it's handy to use on flowers in the garden too!

D-X Aero Spray contains Pyrethrum, Rotenone and Piperonyl Cyclonene -- three power-packed insecticides that give you quick thorough control of aphids, spider mites, thrips, mealy bugs, white fly and other insects. Yet it is non-poisonous to people or pets.

Order now from your florist, hardware or garden supply store. If your dealer does not have D-X Aero Spray Bombs, we will send one to you for \$1.50 postpaid (\$1.65 West of Miss. River).

B. G. PRATT CO.
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PATERSON, N. J.



Drawings of bloom stalk and leaf of a third generation plant, "Adorable." This plant is a free bloomer, blossoms of light violet. Leaves are dark green, highly polished and dimpled, with silvery green edge. Back of leaf is pale green overlaid with silver. No two leaves are alike in shape.

With Saintpaulias In England

Joy Hudson, Beds, England

It is the generally accepted axiom that the surest guide to the successful cultivation of any genus in the vegetable kingdom is the closest possible emulation of the prevailing conditions in its natural habitat. One cannot deny the truth of this, but there are exceptions to every rule. I believe many plants can be "acclimatized" and will thrive in conditions which differ greatly from the natural, and in some cases the result will produce a much better plant in every way.

The Saintpaulia is one of these plants which will respond well to various methods of treatment, and after four years of experimenting with these plants, I am going to tell you how I grow them here in England.

I have found the best method of propagation is from leaf cuttings; leaves can be rooted at any time of the year, but spring and early summer produce quicker results.

My method is to put the leaves into a seed box containing "Elflor" brand of vermiculite, but good results can be obtained by using a sand loam, or peat and sand in equal proportions. The rooting medium should be well soaked overnight and then drained. I make a hole with a pencil, then push in about half an inch of the stem. Then I press the compost very lightly.

An aquarium made a good propagator, with a sheet of glass placed over the top, but I have also used dishes, vases, cups and shallow tins.

Some of my leaves in the smaller containers have been placed on top of the radio, some on old hot water bottles, and others on top of the grid over the gas stove for quick rooting. Leaves are chosen at any stage of growth, and with sharp scissors I cut at the base of the leaf stem as close to the plant as possible.

I like a one and one-half inch stem, although I have propagated successfully with hardly any leaf stem at all. However, in this case, the leaf needs supporting, and a matchstick is ideal for this.

When the plantlets are about an inch long, I separate and cut off the parent leaf close to the base of the plant and use the leaf again for propagating. For the plantlets, I rarely use a pot larger than two and one-half inches. There are more dangers in over potting than underpotting, as Saintpaulias do not need lots of leaf room. One very fine plant (a double rose) is blooming happily in a one inch hole in a stone, while others are blooming nicely in a shallow indoor garden dish.

To label my leaves, I cut a piece of surgical tape, write the name either in ink or in pencil, and place anywhere on the leaf.

I usually bake my soil in the oven in an old tin until the tin is too hot to touch, but many is the time when I have not done this. However, after a mild attack of mite, I am convinced of the necessity of sterilizing the soil. From ex-

perience, I find that the soil is the least important part of growing African violets, but the mixture must be light and porous. I have tried over two dozen different composts, all with good results. One which I use more than any other is John Innes number one. This I mix in bulk, then add the fertilizer to each individual pot when potting up medium-sized plants.

After the plants have become established, I give them a little liquid fertilizer every four weeks.

I feel that the most important factor in growing African violets is to provide the right environment. Good light, plenty of air and careful watering are much more important than soil. My plants are kept almost just dry, then when the foliage begins to wilt, I start the pots in warm water for sometimes as long as twenty-four hours, so that the roots get thoroughly soaked. I do not worry about humidity in the house, for this is kept pretty high by vases of flowers which I always have around. During the winter, when flowers are scarce, I fill several small colorful bowls with water and place these near the plants. In the greenhouse in hot weather, a pail or two of cold water is thrown over the concrete floor to create humidity and keep the temperature down, and a small tank of water rests permanently on the floor underneath the staging. The windows and the door are thrown

open on a fine day, and the windows are often left open all night. Temperatures here have varied from forty-five degrees in the winter to one hundred and ten degrees in the summer.

I do not heat my greenhouse from April to October, and I do not fuss over the plants. They have been subjected to droughts and to most of the things which are supposed to be fatal to them.

When I first started growing African violets, I had only a very small unheated conservatory, and I had to cover my plants with several sheets of newspaper to keep away the frost; I would also drape the glass outside with blankets. At this time, I have over six hundred plants in over a hundred varieties.

I have also done quite a bit of hybridizing and believe I have some worth-while results.

To the question, "Do you think that I, a beginner, will be able to grow African violets?" my answer is, "Yes, provided you are not discouraged with set-backs and occasional losses." There are no "short-cuts," no easy ways to success. But the rewards for ones endeavors are great, and happily growing plants of exceptional loveliness can be obtained only by providing adequately for their needs.

THE END

The flowers and leaves of this plant are much larger than drawn. This plant is growing in a hole in the stone that is only 1 inch wide and 1½ inches long.



NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

Dear Affiliated Chapter Members:

Thanks for your co-operation and for your friendly letters. Keep up the good work.

Most of the officers of Affiliated Chapters have a personal copy of my so called "REQUEST SHEET" as published in June, 1954, African Violet Magazine. However, if you do not have a copy, I will be happy to mail one to you on request. (They are for officers of Affiliated Chapters only.)

Please study each item on my "REQUEST SHEET" and abide by same. It will be most helpful to all concerned if you do so. All memberships, new and renewal, with checks, should be sent to the Affiliated Chapter chairman. If you send them elsewhere they have to be forwarded to me, which means extra work and postage.

All affiliated memberships must come to the Affiliated Chapter chairman for verification of the \$2.50 membership fee.

Also, please mention your Chapter name when you write me. It is sometimes most difficult and tiring to search through the files to find the one of the two hundred and sixty Chapters to which you do belong. We get no remuneration for our work; help us to have fun and not drudgery.

Another very important reminder -- **PLEASE SEND ME THE NAMES OF YOUR OFFICERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR ANNUAL ELECTION.** I've been making this plea for nine months now, and it has been made by others for years; there are still some Chapters in the file whose officers date back to 1952.

PLEASE NOTE -- THIS IS IMPORTANT!

Our editor, Alma Wright, has asked that I submit the list of Chapters for the 1954-55 Members' Handbook.

Help me to make you happy by being sure that I have your present president's name and address. The deadline is December 31st but I must have this information by December 15th.

It will be the responsibility of each Chapter to be sure I have this information in time for the Handbook. There are some Chapters that have their elections in January and in that case your 1954 president may have to be the one listed. However, if your election is in January and you do wish to have your new president listed, please advise me that this is the situation in your particular Chapter and I will try to hold your Chapter open for the new name and address. You will have to help me to do this by advising me ahead of time. However, unless you are very prompt I can make no promises.



Your Affiliated Chapter Chairman
is:

GRACE ROWE
749 Columbia Street
Aurora, Illinois

SHOWS — I have the Award Ribbons for your shows. Please don't write me for rules of the show. It is all given in detail on page 108 of the 1953-54 Members' Handbook.

For show preparation and judging also see the 53-54 Members' Handbook, pages 106 and 107.

If you care to give me the date of your show as scheduled and the name of the chairman appointed, I will be glad to let you know should your date conflict with another show in your locality.

AFFILIATION — Anyone interested in Affiliation with African Violet Society of America, Inc., full information was given in the March, 1954, African Violet Magazine. Write me, I'm always willing to help you with your problems or details you do not understand.

I trust all **AFFILIATED CHAPTERS** will respond to the request of Nelle M. Brest, chairman, Boyce Edens Memorial Fund. Her request: "To give consideration to this important part of the work of the African Violet Society of America, Inc."

If you desire further information on the project, I'm sure she will be willing to aid you.

Sincerely hope all your Christmas programs will be merry and gay.

Now a personal Season's Greeting to each and every one, and may God's richest blessings be yours in 1955.

Sincerely,
Grace Rowe

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BAY COUNTY, FLA.

Mrs. J. E. Morelock, Pres.
P. O. Box 886, Parker, Fla.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF RUSSELLVILLE

Mrs. J. W. Gentle, Pres.
South Jackson St., Russellville, Ala.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PINE BLUFF

Mrs. Ray Strohn, Pres.
2507 West 17th, Pine Bluff, Ark.

DeGRAFF AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. Lynn Loffer, Pres.
DeGraff, Ohio

FALCON HEIGHTS HI LOA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. Monroe Trapp, Pres.
1771 N. Hamline Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

LONE STAR SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Mrs. Edward G. Jones Pres.
3560 French Rd., Beaumont, Tex.

SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. C. W. Fulton, Pres.
753 S. Newton, Springfield, Mo.

THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PENSACOLA, FLA.

Mrs. Joycelin Lloyd, Pres.
220 E. 50th St., N. Davis Highway, Pensacola, Fla.

THE GALENA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. Jessie Nash Strand, Pres.
South Third St., Galena, Ill.

THE END



People Might Think

Ima Thority



The power of the magnetic little African violet to make friends, cheer the lonely, and give the housewife an interesting hobby, has often been discussed at length, but just as a magnet has both positive and negative ends, so has the African violet. Let's take a look at some of the negative results of being an enthusiast. First of all, as soon as the news gets around that you, Mrs. Ima Thority, have the largest collection in these parts, you are expected to be able to answer any question that arises on the subject of African violets, and I assure you, people can think up the most exasperating things to ask. If your neighborhood is like mine you will many times weigh the factors for and against having the phone removed -- or bodily tearing it from the wall. About the time you are nicely settled mixing a batch of soil, or in the midst of separating a bunch of precious babies -- Brrrrr -- the phone, and a slow voice on the other end saying, "I have an African violet and I wonder if you can tell me why it won't bloom. Do you have any secrets?" Or "What are the little white bugs wiggling around in the saucers?" etc., etc., One violet acquaintance was actually very much put out because I didn't drop everything and drive 12 miles to see what was wrong with her plants: "They had something on them." I told her to spray them with Black Leaf 40 and whatever it was she had cleared up in a few days. I usually prescribe the first remedy that comes to mind and am certain that someday my telephonic mind is going to receive a wrong impression and the person on the other end of the line will have a violet funeral on her hands.

I think the case of the midget leaves is one of my best. I did not try to diagnose this one via the phone. It all happened four years ago when Mrs. Ann Onymous asked me to come and see her plants. They were growing "smaller" every day and there was no apparent cause for it. She had used good potting soil, and having had nice violets previously, she knew how to care for them properly, so these were a mystery. As the new centers developed they were perfectly formed little leaves of good color, and there were no

bugs visible. The larger outer leaves would wilt down and die one by one, -- just plain disgusting! There were no root knots, no root rot, no worms, nothing about the plant to give a clue to the mystery, so we began to check on environment. The exposure, temperature, and humidity seemed O.K. but the gas fumes one inhaled upon entering that home were of anesthetic quality. Being like the proverbial person who "enjoys" poor health Mrs. Ann Onymous refused to accept the gas fumes as the cause of her trouble. Oh yes, she knew there was a leak . . . it was at the back of the stove and would light when she held a match to it. (I took her word for it, since I wasn't quite ready to leave this world). She was sure there must be some other answer to her problem, so I wrote to our Editor, explaining the situation as I saw it. She asked for pictures of the plants and full information.

In the meantime summer arrived, and in desperation Ann Onymous put the worst plants outside on a sheltered porch. It was almost unbelievable that within three weeks the plants had returned to normal size and they continued to grow all summer. As soon as they were taken back into the house in the fall, the leaves began to droop, buds blasted and growth was retarded. I believe that is where I came in!

When our Editor had the full account of the story, she asked me to write it for the magazine so that perhaps other folks might be able to detect and correct similar trouble. Ann Onymous wouldn't hear to it. She said someone might know that I was from Podunk City, USA, her home town, they might suspect it was her plants, and might think she had some disease among them and then (pause for breath) they wouldn't want to exchange with her, -- so I didn't write the article.

As I write this, I can't help thinking how horrible a tragedy it was when that leaky old gas stove exploded. Mrs. Ann Onymous never got her pan of soil baked, but let's hope she is having "good growing" in Heaven.

And So . . . You might think --

THE END



Dear Pigeons:

Another summer is on the wane as I write this, and very soon your African violets will take the place of your outdoor gardening activities. It's during the cold months when we really appreciate our violets. Now for a helpful hint of my own.

Have you ever found spots on the underside of your African violet leaves that could not be explained? I've suspected for a long time that tiny spiders were to blame and recently had the fact proven to me. One night an out of town friend brought me three beautiful seedlings, grown in two inch pots. All were identical and in full bloom. I put two of them on the living room table and the other on a table in the utility room. I planned to strip the latter plant of leaves the next morning. The next day I started to remove leaves and was surprised to find all the outer leaves were pock marked, and looked as though they had been punctured.

I knew the plant had been perfect the night before and those in the living room were in perfect shape. I got out my trusty magnifying glass and soon found several tiny spiders on the plant. On looking further, I found many of these



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road
Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

tiny spiders on a cactus plant I had brought in from the porch the day before. This had been sitting next to the violet plant. These tiny spiders can do untold damage in a short time. However, large spiders are actually beneficial in a plant house or basement, as they consume many small bugs that may be lurking about.

Your Hint Hunter,
Helen

Plants are often stubborn about blooming, even though everything seems to be ideal. Try putting a fish bowl over the plant or set the pot inside the bowl. Buds will form very shortly.

Gladys Ellis, Chicago, Ill.

Use one teaspoon of calcium phosphate (gypsum) to a three-inch pot of soil. This has kept my plants blooming for a long time.

Barbara Waspourek, Newton, N. J., Unit 74

White stove or refrigerator enamel is wonderful for painting jar lids to set underneath plants.

Ruth Jessup, Denver, Colo.

To eliminate bugs try putting one inch of soil in bottom of the pot and on this put one-fourth to one-half teaspoon of 15% wettable parathion (depending on size of pot). Use enough additional soil to cover parathion and proceed to plant as usual. Do this outside and wear a mask and rubber gloves!

(Hint Hunters note -- parathion must be used with extreme caution.)

Solange Slivka, Fayette, Ohio, Unit No. 7

Variegated plants very often will lose their variegation and turn all green. This happened to some baby plants I had grown of Wintergreen. I started to water them with Atlas Fish Emulsion, using one-half teaspoon to a quart of warm water. In a short time the new leaves came in the center of the plant and all were variegated.

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tenn.

Many violets and house plants are set outdoors on the ground during the summer. A piece of window screen placed over the hole in the bottom of the pot will keep worms and bugs from entering the pot.

An unknown contributor

I use the droppings and gravel from my bird cages and mix it with my potting soil.

George Dodson, Cleveland, Ohio

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Best of named varieties. Also large selection of our own introductions.
Visitors welcome — Closed Thursdays and Fridays except by appointment.

Telephone Yellowstone 4-2317

EDENA GARDENS

461 Bridge Rd.

Walnut Creek, Calif.



EDNA P. JONES

3560 French Rd.

Beaumont, Texas

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

HELLO!

May I interrupt you for just a short time this morning? I know you all have that self-satisfied feeling, Thanksgiving over and the Christmas holidays here in just a few short weeks. Soooo, you are going to take time out to groom your plants and repot those seedlings, perhaps for your friends for holiday gifts; and while doing this don't forget the hospitals and institutions where the less fortunate are confined. A plant full of bright blooms always cheers the sick. African violet enthusiasts are known as friendly people, and that is the feeling our Homing Pigeons are organized to promote among its members, namely friendship.

I have been in touch with Mrs. Joy Hutson, president of the Affiliated Chapter in England, hoping that she will be able to fire enough enthusiasm among her members to want to organize a Homing Pigeon with members in the U. S. A. After reading her article, June, 1953, there are many things she and her associates could tell us about our favorite plant, where rapidly changing temperatures present one of the major problems. Lucky Mrs. Hutson, with Catherine Shepherd to advise her and find a way to get seeds and plants to her. Postage would present one of the major problems were this group or groups organized. To insure a fast flight air mail would be best, unless we would be satisfied with one flight a year.

From a number of letters from directors asking what to do with members that hold up the Pigeons, one director said she had a member that always held it for at least a month. Do you think it is fair to the others to do this? Let's get them flying in the time allowed according to the rules. If you are unable to do this, send a courtesy card to the next on the list or notify your director. One director suggested we have stars for the fastest flights and publish it in the magazine.

When sending your letters of introduction, please put your name and address and the date at the top of your letters. This enables us to assign them in the order they are received. Here are some letters received with incomplete address: Mrs. Charles Novotny -- letter dated March 26, 54; Mrs. Dennis Wakefield; Mrs. Louise Huyser, Bliss Idaho, Unit No. 136.

By the time you read this, sheets will have been mailed to all directors listed in the Pigeon files with stamped envelopes enclosed to return

corrected lists. If they are not received by January 15, 1955, we will then consider them disbanded and remove names and numbers from the files. Your cooperation will be appreciated. I wish to thank those directors that have taken over new Pigeons, the others that have promptly sent in their corrected sheets, and Mrs. W. G. Burrell and Mrs. C. D. Peglar for helping me with the paper work.

It is difficult to become enthused about winter holidays in the middle of August when the temperatures are soaring in the high ninety's, but by now your plants will have recovered from the summer's heat and be in the process of being groomed for the spring shows. I think it would be appropriate to quote at this season the first poem ever dedicated to the "Homing Pigeons," by our own Jean Crowe:

The mailman whistled at the gate,
I hurried out -- just couldn't wait
To see what he had brought around,
A Homing Pigeon there I found.

Across nine states had winged its way
To visit me -- 'till the third day
I read the letters o'er and o'er,
Then sent it off from my front door.

To carry on to all the rest
My greetings -- and all I thought best
Of violet news that I could share
With other members here and there.

These Pigeons tie in friendship's band
People scattered throughout the land,
The members are not set apart
By age, since all are young in heart.

Country or city bred does not matter
Since both are always full of chatter,
Smart looks makes no difference there --
We are not judged by what we wear.

Money does not count at all;
The cost of postage is quite small,
And plants, no need to buy each one --
To trade varieties . . . is fun.

You buy one, I'll buy another,
In this way we help each other,
Uniting north, south, west, and east,
The Pigeon is a "Dove of Peace."

Merry Christmas -- Happy New Year,

Edna P. Jones

AFRICAN VIOLETS

PLANTS LEAVES SUPPLIES

Best of the new and older varieties. Free List. Shipping to all parts of Canada, and leaves to the British Isles.

WE DO NOT SHIP TO THE U. S. A.

MARGARET L. CLELAND

1163 River Rd. Niagara Falls, Canada

— VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME —



Mrs. Charles Miller, surrounded by some of her lovely plants

Rural Electricity Aids African Violet Growers

Reprinted through courtesy Kansas Electric Farmer

When one of her friends gave her an African violet plant about five years ago, Mrs. Charles E. Miller of Tonganoxie, Kansas, gave it all the love and attention any houseplant ever received. "It was then that I was determined to carry on and raise more of these beautiful plants," said Mrs. Miller, "as they bloom three-fourths of the year and some of them have never stopped blooming."

Today, African violets of pink, blue, lavender and white radiate beauty throughout the Miller home.

"There are four main points that people interested in growing African violets should remember," said Mrs. Miller, "and I find that electricity aids me greatly in following these four important points."

Light

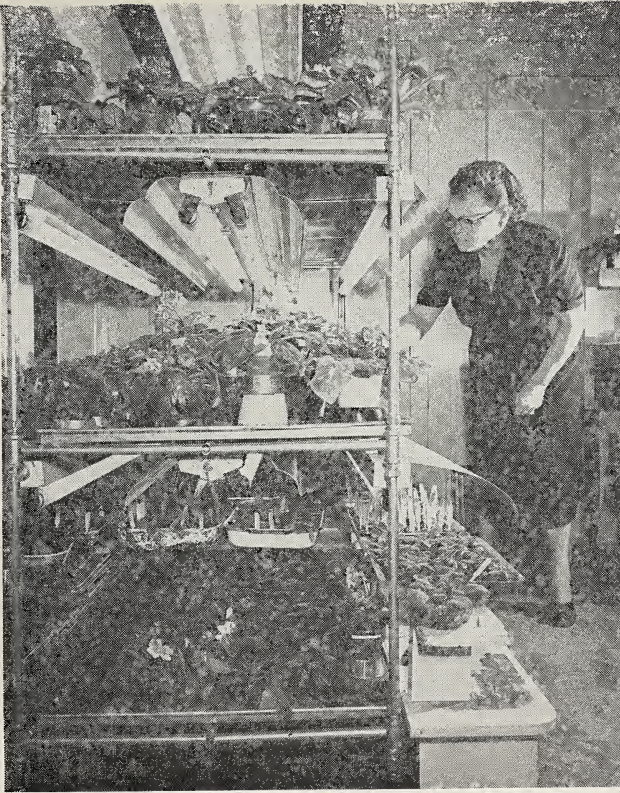
Fluorescent lights provide an even, cool light for the plants which makes the blossoms deeper and more intense in color. The plants reach for light and these lights should be about nineteen inches above mature plants and ten inches above smaller plants. The plants should be turned a quarter turn a day to keep them balanced.

Soil

Sterilize soil that the plants are to be potted in says Mrs. Miller. She runs equal parts of good garden soil, well-rotted manure, humus and sand through a coarse sieve and adds one-fourth cup of bonemeal to this peck of mixture. It is placed in a deep pan and a quart of water is placed on the bottom and a quart over the top. It is sterilized and stirred constantly in the electric oven at one hundred and eighty degrees for one to one and one-half hours. She uses a thermometer to make sure the temperature is correct. It shouldn't be used for three days after it has cooled and should be stirred to get bacterial life started again.

Water

Don't over-water African violets. Roots can't stand in water and neither can they bear cold water. It should be at least room temperature. She uses rain water and cautions that tap water should stand at least a day before using. When plants stand in sunlight, you must not let any water get on the leaves or the sun will instantly burn a hole in the leaf. Mrs. Miller has a schedule so that small plants get watered twice a week and larger ones once weekly.



Fluorescent lights provide cool, even light that promotes more intense color of blossom.



Steaming soil in the oven for sterilization.

Air

African violets can't stand drafts, but they must have fresh, circulating air or they will mildew. Electric fans stir the air constantly in the Miller home and during the heat of the summer, air conditioners keep the inside temperature at seventy to seventy-five degrees. "African violets will bloom better and the blossoms will stay on longer when the air is the right temperature," said Mrs. Miller.

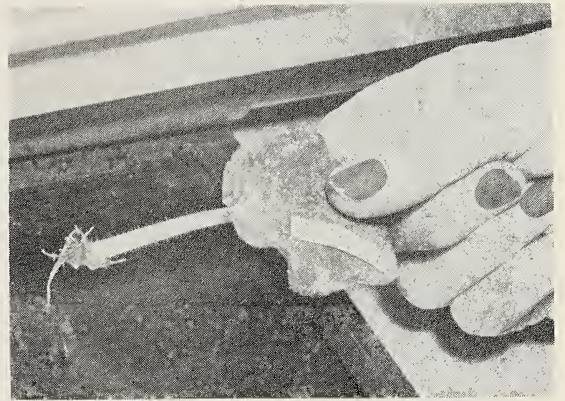
"There are a few more important things to remember if you're going to grow African violets," said Mrs. Miller, "and the first is to be sure you know your source when buying African violet plants. Keep new plants isolated from other plants to keep disease out if prevalent."

Mrs. Miller, a member of the National African Violet Association, also belongs to the Lawrence African Violet Club. The Miller farm receives its electricity from the Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Co-op of McLouth.

Last year, Mrs. Miller received the sweepstakes ribbon for having the most blue ribbons at the Lawrence show. People from nine states attended that show last year and over one thousand plants were entered, three hundred and fifty of which were in competition.

"African violets are the most worthwhile house plant we can have," said Mrs. Miller, "and for the least amount of money."

THE END



A leaf rooted in water and ready for planting.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
NEW FANCY HYBRIDS

In next issue of Magazine
STAMP FOR LIST

LELA REICHERT

3114 CHARLES ST.
OMAHA 2, NEBRASKA

REGISTRATION

Phil Libby, P. O. Box 53, Racine Wisconsin

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period June 1, 1954, to August 27, 1954.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

- Airy Fairy 7-13-54**
George Wessale
547 Vernon Dr., S. E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- April 8-2-54**
Mrs. Byrdena Woodley
Maltbie Road
Gowanda, New York
- Elsted's Oak Leaf Cluster 8-17-54**
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Rosenak
Box 269B, Route 2
Thiensville, Wisconsin
- Elsted's Rudolph 8-17-54**
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Rosenak
Box 269B, Route 2
Thiensville, Wisconsin
- Elsted's Rudolph's Sister 8-17-54**
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Rosenak
Box 269B, Route 2
Thiensville, Wisconsin
- Lillian 7-13-54**
George Wessale
547 Vernon Drive, S. E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Love Girl 7-29-54**
Mrs. W. Duff Wilson
408 S. Tennessee Street
Martinsburg, West Virginia
- Me Too 7-13-54**
George Wessale
547 Vernon Drive, S. E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Miss Springmaid 7-19-54**
Mrs. Cloud Robinson
404 Edgewood Court
Lancaster, South Carolina
- My Leba 6-30-54**
Mrs. Mary Hines
5548 Antioch Road
Merriam, Kansas
- October Night 8-20-54**
Mrs. Byrdena Woodley
Maltbie Road
Gowanda, New York
- Sandra's Choice 7-23-54**
Mrs. Earl Morris
Chestnut Street
St. Michaels, Maryland
- San Juan 7-9-54**
Mrs. Irene Knapp
4440 San Juan Avenue
Fair Oaks, California
- Silly 7-19-54**
Mrs. John Slivka
203 N. Ohio Street
Fayette, Ohio

Solange 7-19-54

Mrs. John Slivka
203 N. Ohio Street
Fayette, Ohio

PART II

The following NAME RESERVATIONS have been received during this period:

Blue Indian Canoe	Peekaboo
Blue Surprise	Pink Reflection
Calumet Beacon	Rajah
Corona	Raspberry Delight
Fiesta	Red Countess
Flair	Rhett Butler
Gladiator	Ruffled Princess
Grenadier	Scarlet O'Hara
Magenta Belle	Serenity*
Missy*	Sundown
Missy Kay*	Sunset Glory
Moon Stripe	Sunset Maiden
Moon Trails	Taj Mahal
Mountain Mist	Tecla
Orchid Melody	White Skies
Painted Sunset	

*(Should have been published in June issue.)

PART III

— IMPORTANT NOTICE —

Your attention is called to the following taken from the Members' Handbook, 1952-1953, under "Master File of Variety Names," page 96:

9. "All names in the list that do not carry some dated designation or other name protection will be considered as going out of existence January 1, 1955. Until then anybody having any interest whatsoever in the preservation of a name can express desire that the name be protected. To accomplish this the practice of NAME PROTECTION will be set up. Anybody having an interest in the plant, as by having introduced it, now possessing a specimen, having knowledge of its history or distribution, etc., should so notify the registrar. The file card will then be stamped NAME PROTECTION and the name and variety will be preserved to some future review date."

Since there are so many cards in the master file, with no information on them except the name, this method above will release many names for future name reservation.

Please bear in mind that NAME PROTECTION has no direct connection with REGISTRATION. It is hoped that anyone who wants the name protected because they originated or introduced the variety will go ahead and register it, but there is no necessity that they do so.

Unless the registrar hears from you on these unprotected names by January 1st, 1955, they will automatically go out of existence. The 1952-1953 Members' Handbook will give you most of these names.

PART IV

UNRENEWED NAME RESERVATIONS

There are in the master file a number of NAME RESERVATION cards that have expired, and have not been renewed by applicant. Possibly many of these have been overlooked; however, if not renewed for another two years, together with payment of the fee of \$1.00 for each name, these cards will also be removed from the master file, when we clear out the cards not NAME PROTECTED. If you have distributed any of these plants under the reserved name, and you do not wish to renew the NAME RESERVATION, it is suggested that you NAME PROTECT them, or renew or register them.

PART V

LIST OF REGISTERED VARIETIES

Due to the many requests for a list of plant names that are permanently registered in the African Violet Society of America, for show purposes and otherwise, the board of directors have approved the issuance of a list of these names, complete to August 31, 1954, for a fee of \$1.00 per copy. The list has been compiled and is now ready for mailing.

PART VI

Don't forget the new address of registrar -- P. O. Box 53, Racine, Wisconsin.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Because of moving I was unable to put out a fall price list. I will have a spring price list offering rooted cuttings, leaves and blooming plants.

FERNE for AFRICAN VIOLETS

FERNE V. KELLAR

827 N. Main St. Harrisonburg, Va.

Plan to visit me. North edge of town on U. S. Highway No. 11.

With best wishes ever for a
Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year.

Alma Wright Mary Parker



By Makers of TRI-OGEN,
World's Largest-Selling
Group of Rose "Grow-ers."

No More Worry ABOUT SAINTPAULIAS

Success comes fast when you properly (1) feed and (2) protect your plants. Now easily and quickly done with Viol-Ogen.

VIOL-OGEN PLANT FOOD

African Violets, Gloxinias, etc. quickly respond to this special booster diet. Highly concentrated. Completely soluble liquid food. Enlarges and prolongs blooms. 3-oz can (makes 120 qts) 50¢.



VIOL-OGEN (Indoor) SPRAY

Controls mealy bugs, cyclamen mites, other pests that cause leaves to curl, droop, drop. For bigger, finer blooms. Harmless to humans, pets. One tsp makes one pt spray. 4-oz can only \$1.

VIOL-OGEN KIT

"Everything You Need". In addition to the Food and Spray, this Kit contains Viol-Ogen Rooting Medium and Viol-Ogen Potting Mixture. Only \$2.95, complete. A boon to African Violet lovers.



Viol-Ogen Rooting Medium (vigorous starting), 8-oz 70¢. Viol-Ogen Potting Mixture (scientifically balanced—dry packed), 3-lb 75¢.

At garden, seed, hardware, drug stores. Or direct, post-paid. Booklet "How to Raise African Violets" free.

Rose Mfg. Co., 6914-124 Ogen Bldg., Beacon, N. Y.

VIOL-OGEN

THE SECRET OF FINE AFRICAN VIOLETS

TRANSATLANTIC STORY

Muriel Milsted, England

It was April, 1947. A few patches of dirty snow still remained on the withered grass, and the ice on the Ottawa River was just breaking up. We had just moved into our permanent home in the village of Deep River, Ontario, having arrived from England the previous November. Although I was very impressed by the comforts of life in Canada after the austerity of England, I had hardly seen a flower for six months, and I was feeling very homesick for the spring flowers and fresh green leaves of an English April.

One of my new neighbors, Kay Bailey, took pity on me and invited me in to see her houseplants, including a window full of wonderful African violets. I had never seen anything like them before, and I became an enthusiast on the spot. Kay is a person who can make anything grow well, but the violets she gave me never looked as well as hers under my inexperienced care. She must have had great patience with me, as I was always asking questions, and several times she had to replace a plant which had died. However, in the next year or two I learned to grow them successfully, and I felt quite proud of my few varieties (rather commonplace ones by 1953 standards).

Then came the blow -- my husband was recalled to England, and I had either to part with my violets or take them with me. Of course there was no doubt in my mind. If the furniture had to go to England, the violets must go, too! They had become such an essential part of the furnishings that I wouldn't think of leaving them.

After a good deal of persuasion my husband made me a plywood box in which I placed a large pot with seven small plants. This we took one hundred and thirty miles to Ottawa for inspection by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and in due course we embarked at Quebec City on the "Empress of Scotland," carrying the precious box and armed with the necessary certificates and permits to import the plants into the United Kingdom.

On the voyage I allowed no one to touch them -- I carried them to our cabin where I took the lid off the box to give them some light and air. It was November, and although the sky was overcast and the sea very rough, the violets stood up to the voyage much better than I did!

In due course we arrived in our cold, damp English house at mid-winter, and there was a desperate coal shortage. Perhaps I should say that the English winter is extremely mild by

North American standards. The temperature in southern England seldom goes below twenty degrees (above), and it is very moist and humid. Strangely enough, this is the very reason why it is difficult to keep African violets alive through an English winter. The winter is so mild that we can (at some personal discomfort) endure it in un-insulated houses without central heating, the only source of heat being an open fire in the living room. This does little to raise the air temperature, and as a result the poor violet on the window sill may be at forty-five degrees while we toast our toes before the fire.

My violets really took a beating that first winter. Two of them died on me, and the survivors bloomed very half heartedly the following summer. They survived the second winter, thanks to an oil stove which at least kept the temperature above fifty degrees, and in the spring and summer of 1952, I had quite a good show of flowers. About this time I received a few leaves of newer varieties from Kay, and during the summer of 1952, I succeeded in rooting them and also some leaves from my "old faithfuls."

Now the third winter was upon us, and I feared that unless some extraordinary measures were taken, I should lose my babies, although the established plants were probably hardy enough to stand up to another English winter. My husband had thought me quite mad to drag plants across the Atlantic, but now he was getting quite interested, and he suggested a frame or "indoor greenhouse," with bottom heating and fluorescent lighting; but I never really believed he would build it. However, at Christmas I was presented with a five foot, eighty watt fluorescent light fitting. This is the standard size over here, due to our higher line voltage (230 volts), but shorter and less powerful tubes are available. We fixed up the fluorescent light in the warmest corner of the dining room and placed the plants under it until the frame was ready.

The construction of the frame took several weeks, and it was necessary to call in the local undertaker to do the joinery. As the contraption was about six feet by two, he felt quite at home, and did a wonderful job. When completed, we fitted the fluorescent tube under the roof, which we covered with an aluminum foil to act as a reflector, and my husband rigged up electrical heating elements in the bottom to give a maximum of two hundred watts. We got a galvanized tray made to take about one hundred and fifty three-inch pots, and placed this in the bottom. We found that we could keep the frame at over seventy degrees, even when the room temperature dropped to forty five degrees (as it sometimes did). As the frame was totally enclosed, the humidity was very high, and the violets thrived exceedingly.

Since we have had this frame, all my violet troubles have ceased. Leaves root in it in a couple of weeks, and some seed which was sown at the end of May has produced fine healthy plants, one of which at the time of writing

(November 1st) has well developed buds which will open in a week or two. By May of this year I had brought about one hundred plants of thirty different varieties into bloom or bud, and these were moved out on to window-sills, where they have bloomed constantly throughout the summer. During the summer the frame has been used for propagation of leaves and seed.

Mrs. Cleland, of Niagara Falls, has sent me quite a number of leaves, and I now have sixty-three registered varieties, including some quite new ones. I also have several fine plants from seedlings raised by Norman Jones. As I now have far more plants than the frame will accommodate for the winter, we are now thinking of devoting a small bedroom entirely to violets under fluorescent lighting, and keeping the frame for propagating.

THE END

PINK FRINGETTE

Very choice. Deep pink fringe flower with beautiful Fringette foliage. Free flowering with flowers high above foliage.

KING DAVID

Introducing my own new seedling. A violet shade with deeper purple showing in top petals. Has a light edge. Extra large flowers with 7 to 8 buds on a stem. Will grow into a large show plant.

MOREY'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

MRS. CLEON A. MOREY

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FLUOR-AL

The All Aluminum Three Tier Stand for Growing African Violets with Fluorescent Lighting.

If your plants refuse to bloom because they don't receive sufficient daylight, the FLUOR-AL is the solution to your problem.

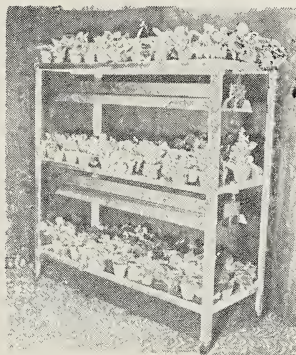
If your plants have outgrown your window sills, you need the FLUOR-AL for extra room.

The FLUOR-AL may be used in front of your picture window without light fixtures.

The FLUOR-AL offers the best way to display and grow plants at the same time -- both in the home and floral shop.

The FLUOR-AL is ideal for basement growing.

The FLUOR-AL is an attractive addition to the living room.



ONLY the FLUOR-AL is made entirely of aluminum which CANNOT rust.

The FLUOR-AL should outlast several iron or steel stands.

ONLY the FLUOR-AL can be returned to new gloss with Brillo Soap pads. -- Never needs painting or refinishing.

ONLY the FLUOR-AL weighs less than 50 pounds.

The FLUOR-AL is approximately 52" long, 20" wide and 52" high, and is mounted on smooth running casters.

The three 19½" x 51½" aluminum trays with welded corners are instantly removable.

EACH tray will accommodate over 80 3" pots with small plants or at least 25 large blooming specimen plants.

Light fixtures are instantly adjustable to any height above tray up to 18". (Ideal is 11" above tops of pots.)

To water plants simply pour in each tray 3¼ to 4 quarts of water. No need for tedious individual watering even when adding fertilizer.

Bottom lights suspended by S-hooks from tray frames. Top lights suspended from ceiling or from simple all aluminum bracket which can be attached in five minutes with four screws.

Shipped unassembled express collect, with all necessary screws, hooks and chains. Only a screw driver needed for a 20 minute assembly. Complete directions furnished.

Light fixtures only \$13.50 each when shipped with FLUOR-AL. Daylight lamps (two for each fixture) \$1.16 each.

New 1955 model FLUOR-AL only \$69.50, F. O. B., Wausau, Wisconsin

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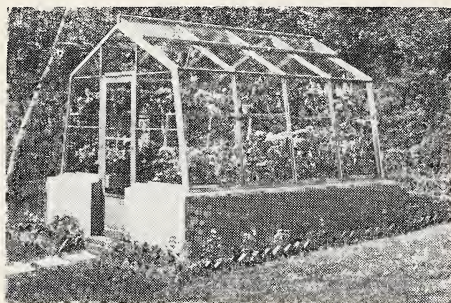
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WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

Pittsburgh Convention Tour

Penny Harness, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

"Pittsburgh Swings Its Gates Wide Open" in welcoming you to the 1955 African Violet Convention. Progress is the keynote of the Steel City, in horticulture as well as construction, but Pittsburgh's convention tour has been planned to offer not only the progressive, but the old favorites as well.



Orlyt ALUMINUM Greenhouse

**COSTS LESS THAN YOU MAY
NOW BE PAYING FOR LIGHT**

Perfect growing conditions -- ample light, humidity, and ventilation to keep the air fresh and "right" -- a great producer of African Violets or anything you want to grow.

\$20.00 PER MONTH buys
the Orlyt pictured --
Size 10 by 11 ft. -- \$594, to go
on your foundation. Others from
\$339 only -- \$12.00 per month.

Maintenance-free for a lifetime of care-free gardening. It's all aluminum alloyed for greatest resistance to corrosion. Easy-to-put-up anytime with prefabricated materials.

Automatic heat and ventilation at reasonable prices. Send for Catalog No. 59.

LORD & BURNHAM
IRVINGTON N. Y. • DES PLAINES ILL.

Buses will leave the William Penn Hotel Thursday, April 14, at one o'clock, and the first stop will be the panoramic view of the city from Mount Washington. Here you will see the new aluminum and steel buildings which sparkle Pittsburgh's skyline, and the Gulf Building and other familiar landmarks.

The Pitt Campus, next on the list, affords many familiar pictures. The Cathedral of Learning, long a symbol of America's higher education, is renowned for its nationality rooms. A guided tour will be conducted through those rooms where classes are not in session.

The Stephen Foster Memorial contains an auditorium and a room of interest to all who have joined in a round of "Oh! Susanna" or "Old Black Joe." Stephen Foster's prolific works are displayed along with his piano and other items of historical value.

The Heinz Memorial Chapel, also on the Pitt Campus, is well known for its stained glass windows. These windows, through carefully executed patterns of transparent and translucent glass, present in colors a spiritual symphony. Each series of windows, in significant figures and designs, represents related virtues, human and divine.

The bus will continue to Phipps Conservatory in Schenley Park, where the annual spring show will be in progress. Featuring tulips, azaleas, and primroses, the show is a special event for all flower lovers. A permanent orchid collection interspersed with African violets occupies one room. Phipps Conservatory is one of the largest publicly owned conservatories in the country.

The tour will end with a tea at the Pittsburgh Garden Center in Mellon Park.

Those wishing further exploration may wish to visit the Alcoa Aluminum Building, the U. S. Steel Building, Buhl Planetarium, the Carnegie Museum, the spacious parks, the campus of Carnegie Institute of Technology, and the many fine department stores.

Pittsburgh is proud to display for you its many points of interest, and hopes you will enjoy them as much as do the members of your Pittsburgh chapter.

THE END

FLOWER HAVEN

MAGIC MIX — A prepared mix for starting gloxinia, begonia, episcia, violet and other plant cuttings.
FINE MEDIUM FOR STARTING ANY SEED
Can be used alone or combined with potting soil for growing blooming size plants.
Contains no soil or chemical fertilizers, contains natural soil conditioners and trace elements. Try it on your problem plants.
2 quarts \$1.00 -- 5 quarts or over 40¢ per quart ppd.

CECIL LACHER

Route No. 4

Freeport, Ill.

MAKE YOUR OWN SEED FLAT AND GROW VIOLETS FROM SEEDS

It is so easy to make your own seed flat! All it takes is a wooden flat -- an avacado crate from the grocery store will do beautifully -- enough waterproof paper or oilcloth to line it, a small quantity of gravel, crushed brick or pebbles, a three or four inch terra cotta flowerpot or a coffee can with holes punched in the bottom and a bag of vermiculite.

Line the flat with the paper or oilcloth, then spread the pebbles over the bottom an inch deep.

Set the flowerpot in the center of the flat, and pour vermiculite to within an inch of the top of the flat.

As you probably have guessed, we use vermiculite instead of sand because it is so much lighter, and absorbs the water from around the roots. The gravel is for drainage.

Soak the vermiculite and the pot and plant the seed, either in rows or on the surface, covering the latter with another thin layer of vermiculite.

The seedlings can be left in the vermiculite until ready for transplanting, when they have nice, healthy roots. Watering is done by pouring water through the pot, thereby moistening the roots and keeping the vermiculite damp.

A liquid fertilizer is suggested. Either a clear liquid teaspoon of 4-12-4 or 5-10-5 may be used, or any of the commercial liquid fertilizers. Tea-colored liquid manure may also be used, but the seedlings should be fed about once a week. Soon you will have strong, healthy seedlings from seed, already to pot in one of your favorite containers.

THE END

VIOLET STAND

FITS ATTRACTIVELY IN CORNER

LIGHT GREEN HAMMERED FINISH

Will Hold Approximately 25 Plants

Stands 46" high and 30" Wide

Glass Shelves Individually Illuminated
(15 Watt Incandescent Lamps Recommended --
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ATTRACTIVELY PRICED AT

\$47.50 Delivered

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SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO

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ENGINEERING CORP.**

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DesPlaines, Illinois



Violets In Vancouver, Washington

Anna Berg

(concluded)

One can always learn new tricks no matter how old the subject. A lady gave me some leaves recently. I started them as I do my own and lost most of them. They were wonderful varieties, besides I didn't want to lose her gift. I could have wept! My leaves, planted at the same time, were fine. It came to me that one must know the plant from which the leaves were taken. I always have used a pinch of Hyponex or B₁ solution in the glasses of water the leaves were put in. Now I play safe! I use a pan with no drainage, filled with a thin layer of peaty-compost covered with a thick layer of river sand. This is soaked down until very firm. The leaves are cut back to one inch stem, dipped in Rootone and firmly planted up to the leaf edge. The plants are kept in a fairly dark spot. Roots can show in three days!

The soil medium has never bothered me too much. We use good garden loam, from one spot we know that hasn't been used up, but has had the compost and fertilizer given the garden several months before. We put the soil in a container and keep it weather dry for six weeks to six months, always keeping enough moisture in it to keep the bacteria of the soil working. Peat can be added to this soil when first placed in the container. When using peat, good drainage must be carefully guarded. Three-fourths of the African violets that die, do so from over-watering. Most of that may be due to slow drainage. Sphagnum moss placed in the bottom of the pot is one help. We use a great deal of charcoal in

our potting mixture. It takes the place of gravel and adds many more advantages. Quite a bit of river sand is added, also. These are used when actual potting is begun.

The average person considers it necessary to water African violets from the bottom. To me, top watering is preferable. The fine roots get the water when they need it without soaking the plant too much. It does not matter to get water on the leaves, just so they are dry before any sun hits them. The healthy green leaf with its glistening look doesn't come from washing it but from the food in the soil and the perfect health from the clean drainage provided by the loose spongy soil.

When a plant gets root bound people say it blooms better. Perhaps . . . I am beginning to believe it is better to re-pot just as in chrysanthemum culture. Otherwise the tight roots cannot allow good drainage and a lovely plant is in danger of losing its feeder roots just when it is at its height of beauty.

Even heat and proper watering are very important in African violet culture. After that comes light and proper feeding, plus some humidity. But good electric light, just so it is a foot from the plant, will give good results, and a good soil, plus rich compost or well-rotted manure, will provide a winter's food. So all in all, even heat and proper water are the two most essential African violet requirements in the day by day procedure.

THE END

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Box 1529, Grand Central Station
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Gentlemen:

I understand that ProtectoTape guarantees freedom from petiole rot or you will refund my money. Please send me postpaid:

_____ rolls 270-in. ProtectoTape @ \$1.00
_____ rolls 60-in. ProtectoTape @ 25¢

Remittance is enclosed. No C.O.D.

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QUESTION BOX



LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

As I write this column it doesn't seem possible that when we are reading this issue of our magazine it will be just a short time before Christmas. At this time I wish to extend the Season's Greetings to all of you and to thank those of you that have taken time out to answer questions, as they have been very helpful.

To Ethel Kissling, Appleton, Wis.

African Violets, Box 302, Fayette, Ohio, has the Snow Lace and many other miniatures. A note to them will bring you their list.

Mrs. Cerny, Cleveland, Ohio

To Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

In experimenting with the episcias, it seems that too hot or too cold watering will brown the leaves. Then too, nothing must touch them in any way. If they rest on something or get a bump, the leaves will brown. I had this trouble for a year and finally put them in a hanging basket and sprayed every day with a mist sprayer. They get watered and also the foliage gets healthier. They like light but not the sun. North-east windows seem to help them.

Mrs. John Slivka, Fayette, Ohio

Why Violets Shed Their Bloom:

The question was raised recently in your column as to why violets shed their blooms when watered. I have had two cases of that. First, though my plants looked well, they did drop their blooms at watering especially. Before long I discovered mites on them and lost quite a few. Now I have a collection started again, sterilizing soil and pots, and once again my plants dropped blooms and didn't look quite healthy. Upon inspection I discovered tiny white worms on the bottom of the pots. I really was discouraged, but thought I'd try Rotenone. I saturated each pot with it. In no time the insects seem to be gone; my plants look marvelous and are covered with bloom. I also use Electra, a powder, for fertilizing them and like that better than any other kind. It seems to give more blooms and larger sized blossoms.

Mrs. Charles H. Brenna, Riverhead, N. Y.

Miniatures:

I read where someone wanted to know where one could purchase the miniature African violets. Since I am very fond of the miniatures and have found that very few dealers carry them, I thought that I would send you the name of the place that I have found best to buy them. The Golden Greenhouses and Flower Farms, Inc., P. O. Box

388, Golden, Colorado, have about one hundred varieties, all miniatures, besides their regular African violet varieties. In writing for the list of violets, be sure to state that it is the miniature list that you desire, since they have a separate list for both types of the violets. Having purchased the majority of my plants from this place, I feel that I can highly recommend them to any violet collector.

Mrs. S. L. Heacock, Denver, Colo.

Miniatures:

I see in your column that you need information on miniatures. Mrs. Robert Montgomery, 5744 Oak Street, Kansas City, Missouri; Mrs. Mary Hines, 5548 Antiock Road, Merriman Kansas; Mrs. Carolyn Rector, Box 94, San Pedro, California; Orchard Nursery, 4011 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, California.

Jean Boggs, Nashville, Tenn.

Q: Where can I obtain a plant of "ramonda pyrenaica?" It is a close relative of the African violet. It has purple or white flowers. This plant is supposed to survive zero temperatures.

Mrs. C. J. Hittle, Gaines, Mich.

A: I do not know of any place but if you would drop a line to Fantastic Gardens, 9550 S. W. 67th Avenue, S. Miami 43, Florida, they could probably help you to locate one.

Q: Has anyone successfully crossed any of the episcias with the African violet? Has anyone as yet developed a pink and white mottled African violet foliage? Perhaps these are two of my dreams of the future.

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tenn.

A: With all the crossing that is going on I am sure that we will have some very interesting answers for the next issue of the magazine.

Q: I have been raising African violets as a hobby for about four or five years. Lately some of my plants are developing a sort of light brown scale on the underside of the leaf. The plants continue to bloom and they look healthy enough. This scale seems to be spreading from one plant to another. Can anyone tell me what it is, what to do for it, and whether or not it is harmful? The tops of the leaves are never affected. Another problem is plant growth. Occasionally I have a plant that after a while starts to grow backwards. This is, the leaves and the plant start to grow smaller and no flowers appear. I usually destroy these plants, but I would like to know what causes it. The dirt is mixed according to the accepted proportions and steam sterilized.

I feed my adult plants Rapid-Gro in small amounts about every two weeks. Most of them thrive on this and many grow from fifteen to twenty inches in diameter. I use clay pots and water from the bottom. I "temper" the water and try not to over-water. My plants are grown in every available window -- location doesn't seem to affect the amount of water necessary, although it does affect the blooming. What can be done to make a stubborn plant bloom?

Miss Wilma Keflor, Elmira Hgts., N. Y.

A: I have had plants that have had scale but it doesn't seem to harm the plant. Would someone that has had this experience and knows what causes it and what to do for it please reply? In regard to the plant growing smaller, I would look to the root system to see if there were any Nematodes as this condition probably comes from the plant not getting the nourishment that it needs.

Q: During the spring of this year I purchased between forty and fifty violet plants and also joined the Society. I'm strictly an amateur and would appreciate it if you would tell me where to get much needed help. Have been unable to make these plants bloom in my home. Keep my violets in a 2' x 4' tray in an east window. The pots are set on chicken grits which is kept moist to provide the humidity which I understand is so necessary. Have been feeding the plants weekly. Have I overfed my plants? The foliage all seems to look pretty much alike and not as distinctive as when purchased. What am I doing wrong? . . . nothing seems to work.

Mrs. S. Bekeny, Cleveland, Ohio

A: Violets do seem to rest from June until some time in September. At that time we usually try not to feed the plants, as we want them to rest. Then in September you can start your feeding program. Perhaps there have been too many shade trees that have kept the light from your plants even though they have been in the window.

Q: Last April, when at the convention, I made it a point to hear Mr. Oliver Pease speak on the use of colchicine. Due to the fact that I was sitting far from the platform and could not hear I came away disappointed having heard very little. Could we not have that article appear in our magazine so that all may enjoy it?

Clara Hamma, St. Louis, Mo.

A: I am sure that Mr. Pease talk will be covered in either the September or December issue of our magazine. (It will be in December -- Editor.)

Q: I would like to know the name of the variety on the cover of our June issue of the magazine. Where could it be purchased? Also would like to have ideas on rooting. In starting mine in water I find that so often the leaves die after they are planted before the little plants start growing.

Iola Sargent, Burbank, Calif.

A: The plant on the cover is Boyce Edens. You will always find the name of the plants shown on the cover on the second page under "Contents." So many people write for the name and it is always given on Page two. I purchased my plant of Boyce Edens from Mrs. Sam Nichols, 246 Madison Boulevard, Madison, Tennessee. She had them at the convention and they were beautiful. You could drop her a note to find out if she ships them or if she knows someone in your locality that is raising them. In regard to your trouble rooting leaves and having them rot, I would recommend that you try raising them in vermiculite. I have much better luck that way. Some like rooting them directly in dirt, but this doesn't seem to work for me either. Experiment several different ways and find the one that works best for you.

Q: I have an east window and heat the house with oil but soon after I get my violets they stop blooming. The edges of the leaves just hang over the pot. Is June to August a poor blooming period? I buy the dirt, use Gro-Quick, Pokon and Plantone. Would you recommend using my soil on the farm?

Mrs. Oren Igo, Scotland, Ill.

A: June to August seems to be a bad blooming period for many of us. However, the plants should start to pick up now. Why not try using a cardboard collar around the rims of the pots so that the leaves will not drop over the edge of the pot. Some plants are more inclined to droop than others, but the collar helps hold them in place. Why not change and use some of the farm soil, providing that you sterilize it first. It might prove richer than the soil that you are buying.

Q: A number of my African violets are suffering from what I believe to be petiole rot. The lower leaves in contact with the rim of the flower pot are drooping and in some cases have developed brown spots on the stem at the rim. Can you tell me what petiole rot is, how it can be detected and, more important, how it can be prevented? Do you know what causes it?

Marilyn M. Bernhofer, Croton-on-Hudson, N. Y.

A: If you will cover your pot rim with aluminum foil you will get rid of the brown spot where the petiole touched the pot. This will prevent the rot caused by touching the pot rim. However, if your leaves seem to be rotting, I would investigate to see if all is well with the root system. Crown or root-rot could cause the petioles to rot.

Q: Have you ever heard of an Algerian violet? Have been told there is such a flower. Was on exhibit in Ohio. Would be pleased to have any information on how to obtain it.

Madeline Gould, Brookville, Pa.

A: I have asked many people, but no one had heard of this violet. I am sure that some of our readers will write in and give us this information.

Q: I would like to know where I might get books on using colchicine. I have written to our

state library but could not get any. I am also having trouble with my violet plants. Blooms have a white mildew on the back of the blossoms and down the stem. I do not know if it is mildew or not, but the blossom and stem looks like someone sprinkled flour on them. I asked our florist, who also raises violets, and she could not tell. It can't be dampness as the ones on my window sills are the same as the ones on benches in sand. I have an awful time since the air is so dry in our house, so I have to do all I can to get more humidity. I have sprayed with NNOR and Marvel Spray but this does not help.

Mary B. Stanton, Mosherville, Mich.

A: As I answered Mrs. Hamma from St. Louis I am sure that Mr. Pease article on colchicine will appear in one of our magazines in the near future. In regard to the mildew -- and it does sound like mildew -- I would dust a little sulphur on the affected plants. You need a circulation of fresh air even though you are trying to achieve humidity.

Q: My hobby is African violets. I want to know if I can sell them to my friends. If so do I need a license, and how do I go about obtaining it?

Mrs. Dent Sherrill, Noblesville, Ind.

A: I do not know the laws in Indiana but if you would write to your State Agriculture College or the Farm Bureau I am sure that they would be able to give you that information and where your nearest inspector would be, if you needed an inspector.

Q: I have a question that maybe someone could answer for a friend of mine. This lady takes violets and soil from this district into the southern part of the state. The violets grow just immense, the petioles are huge and so are the leaves, but never any blossoms. According to all reports she has good light, the plants are very thrifty but never blossom.

Mrs. Glenn Young, Vestal, N. Y.

A: If they bloomed here it must be the lack of light that is affecting them now. I suppose the difference in climate could affect them, but it just seems as if they needed more light.

Q: I have been looking for the following violets: White Neptune, Bertha Supreme and Lady Anderson.

Mrs. James C. Anderson, Schenectady 8, N. Y.

A: White Neptune appears on Dorothy Young's catalogue, 2937 Rutland Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa. The other two I have been unable to locate. They might be somebody's unregistered seedlings. If any of you know where Mrs. Anderson can obtain either of the above plants please contact us.

Q: Have been growing violets for three years and have had no trouble until now. Have lost a few this summer due to the heat, but my real trouble is this -- My Snow Prince has some small brown spots on the underside, and in a short time the leaf begins to droop and then of course dies. This question was asked in the

September, 1952, magazine, but I have checked and have been unable to find the answer.

Mrs. Ped Bonner, Fairfield, Ill.

A: Have you tried a spray? One that is recommended is one teaspoon Volch to one-fourth teaspoon Black Leaf 40. Whether that little brown spot is caused by a bug, fly or parasite I wouldn't know, but I wish that someone that makes a study of such things would help us out.

Q: There is no sense in having this column unless I can get some help out of it myself. The thing that happened to me this year has happened before and always to a large, good shaped, heavily blooming plant. I had a lovely Gorgeous plant blooming its head off, and one day I noticed that I had left some dried flower stalks on the plant so I started to pull them off and the whole plant came away from the soil and I was holding a rootless plant. I turned it over and found in the place of roots a little hole in the stalk of the plant, and in this hole was a nice, fat, grubby worm about one-fourth inch long and about one-eighth inch thick. I dug him out and cleaned around where he had been and set the plant in a dish of water. It is rooting nicely and never has stopped blooming. Why didn't the worm or grub cause the plant to wilt down? Another question that I would like answered is this: Could flies or bugs that come in around the screens lay eggs in the soil, with these grubs being the result? My soil was sterilized, so it could not be old eggs. Does anyone have any suggestions?

I do hope that some of our readers will come through with answers in regard to scale, brown spots, etc. I would like to know the answers myself, and I am sure that some of our students will know what is wrong and what causes the various troubles.

Have a happy holiday season.

Lois S. Minehan
THE END

THE WHITE HOUSE FOR VIOLETS . . .

PLANTS, LEAVES, ROOTED CUTTINGS
OLD AND NEW
GROWN UNDER FLUORESCENT LIGHTS
We do not ship

MRS. GEORGE GLERUM

off Route No. 33-30 Clinton Avenue
BERGEN, N. Y.

PLANTS

LEAVES

CHOICE NEW VIOLETS

Stamp for List
Open by Appointment

QUALITY VIOLET HOUSE

2021 Union, S. E., Ch 3-6651, Grand Rapids, Mich.

My Husband's Sacrifice

Lillian Smith, Berrien Springs, Mich.

My hobby of collecting violets nearly crowded us out of our home, so I suggested to my husband that he give me his den for a violet shop. Much to my surprise, he told me I could have it. Later he told me that he really hadn't thought the idea would work.

He teased me good about the initial output for my sign, which was \$5.00. What was his

VIOLET'S AFRICAN VIOLET SHOPPE

Over 200 varieties old and new
PLANTS AND LEAVES, MY OWN SEEDLINGS

MRS. VIOLET FRATHEL

252 Clay Avenue
ROCHESTER 13, N. Y.

"NOBODY LOVES A *African* SHRINKING A VIOLET"

You'll never know how beautiful your Saintpaulias can be until you give them the absolute protection they need against insects. Impossible, you say?

Not at all. But there is a danger that by the time you discover these minute, insidious pests the leaves may curl, small white cotton masses appear, plants shrivel and blooms stop. And "nobody loves a shrinking violet"—*not even a shrinking African Violet!* But the symptoms and hideous results often are easier to detect than the causes themselves.

For instance, mealy bugs are but a small fraction of an inch long. And the devastating cyclamen mite and broad mite are *invisible* to the naked eye! They frequent the junction between the stalk and leaf—and feed on the underside of the leaf. Fortunately, they can be easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray—the special "ogen" insecticide that is so popular with both professional and amateur African Violet growers alike. As it is an ovicide, Marvel Spray penetrates the waxy shells of these persistent enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send \$1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Manufacturing Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose GROW-ers"). 5614-124 Ogen Building, Beacon, New York.

MARVEL *Spray*

surprise when I told him I had sold \$5.50 worth the first day my sign was up! And I hadn't put it up until four o'clock that afternoon! Of course, since then my little business has more than paid for the use of his den. Now he has become so enthusiastic about my shop that he plans to give me a greenhouse for growing more plants. The shop has afforded me a wonderful opportunity to have fun at home, a little extra income of my own, and an opportunity to meet many lovely people. I feel quite proud of myself and the African violet -- mostly the violet. It just sells itself! Others, like myself, have found that you just can't be unhappy when your hobby is African violets.

THE END

OWEN FINED \$17,000, SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR

(A Reprint)

In a United States District court, Springfield, Illinois, James W. Owen, Bloomington, who was convicted August 6 of using the mails to defraud, on August 25 was sentenced to one year in a federal jail and fined \$17,000. The fraudulent operator had been found guilty on seventeen counts, each of which carried a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$1,000 fine. The prosecution dropped three counts against him during a six week trial. The convicted man's defense attorney moved to set aside the judgment and to ask for a new trial. The motions were to be heard September 2.

Judge Charles G. Briggles, who tried the case, found that the defendant had defrauded customers by misrepresenting his products in his advertisements and shipping inferior wares when he had obtained orders. In sentencing the convicted man, the judge said that a penalty that consisted only of levying a fine "would be little more than a slap on the wrist." The assistant United States attorney who argued the government's case in court had asked for a severe penalty so that the public confidence in government could be maintained and free enterprise protected. The prosecuting attorney said that about 2,500 letters of complaint had been received by the government from Owen's dissatisfied customers.

THE END



Mrs. Burwitz and Mrs. Hein share the honors of some of their beautiful violets.

The "Teacher" And The "Pupil" Work Together

By their own "division of labor," two friends from Richland Center raise violets together, each doing what she enjoys most with violet plants. Mrs. Burwitz, well known in this region as a violet enthusiast and commercial grower, enjoys starting plants from leaf cuttings and watching them develop into healthy, blooming specimens. Mrs. Hein prefers to start with a small plant and coddle it along into a true "specimen." The two ladies work together for lovelier and healthier plants, deriving much joy and pleasure, each in her own way.

Mrs. Burwitz first interested Mrs. Hein in violet culture, and the latter is her star pupil. Both start the small plants under fluorescent lighting. When they have developed enough, the plants are moved to north windows, and when they are strong and larger they are moved to south and west windows, avoiding direct sunlight with the light very subdued. Mrs. Burwitz protects these larger plants with glass curtains. Mrs. Hein's plants are protected by large shade trees just outside her windows, and her plants are on low bookshelves about eighteen inches from the glass panes.

Mrs. Burwitz starts new plants from leaves broken off, placing them in east windows, then

under the fluorescent lights after they have developed roots and are potted. Her potting mixture is composed of equal parts of leaf mold, sand and garden soil.

Mrs. Hein's soil mixture is two-thirds leaf mold, one third sand, and only a sprinkling of garden soil. Both use porous clay pots which are, in turn, placed inside other larger pots containing gravel to allow more drainage. Neither believes in too much fertilizing. Nor do they "rest" their plant more than three weeks. After a plant has bloomed, it is again placed under the fluorescents to bring it back quickly into the blooming stage.

Mrs. Hein has over one hundred plants, most of which were started by Mrs. Burwitz, although she has obtained a few from other commercial growers. When she receives a shipped plant, any broken leaves go to Mrs. Burwitz, who patiently nurses them along into other vigorous plants.

Both Mrs. Burwitz and Mrs. Hein agree that the only secret in growing their African violets is regular watering, proper light and feeding. For the perfectly shaped, rounded plants, it was also mentioned that the daily quarter turns of each plant was necessary to assure symmetry.

THE END

IDEA BENCH

Rose Hahn, 301 Garden Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.

SANTA CLAUS COOKIES

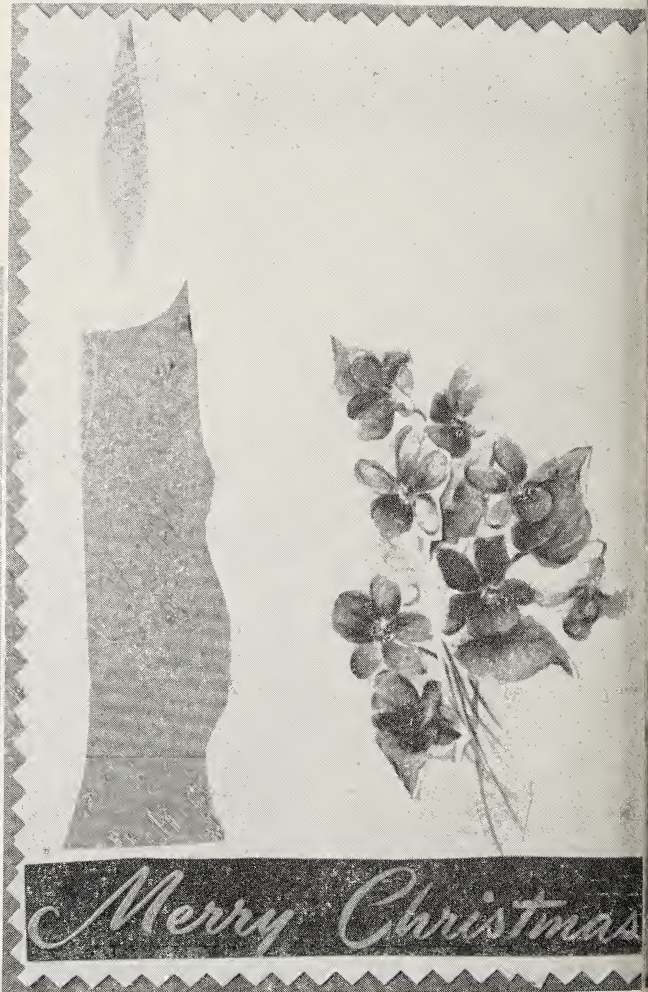
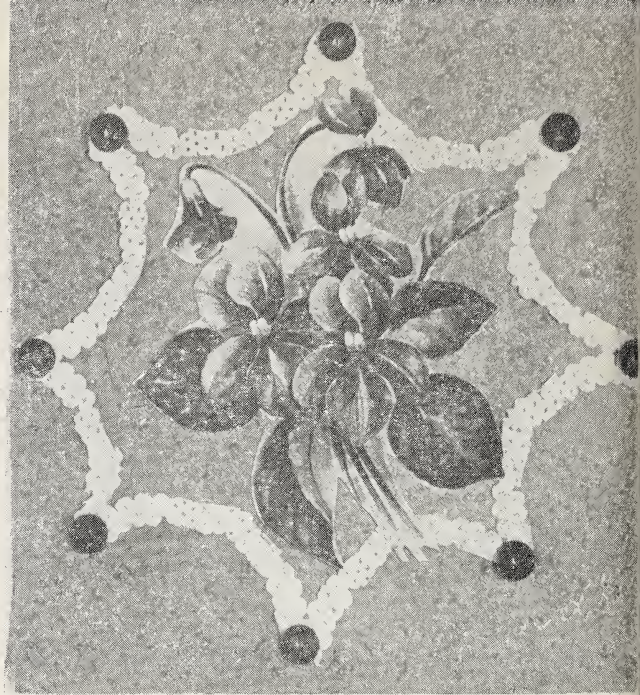
Sift together: 4 cups sifted and measured flour, one-half teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon soda. Cream together: one and one-half cups sugar, 1 cup shortening, 3 medium eggs (one-third cup), 1 teaspoon vanilla, one-half teaspoon lemon. Add dry ingredients.

Shape into 3-inch roll, wrap in wax paper and chill. Press dough into cutter firmly, or roll about one-eighth inch thick and cut with cutter. Place on greased cookie sheet. Press in one-half raisin for each eye. Bake at 350° F. until brown.

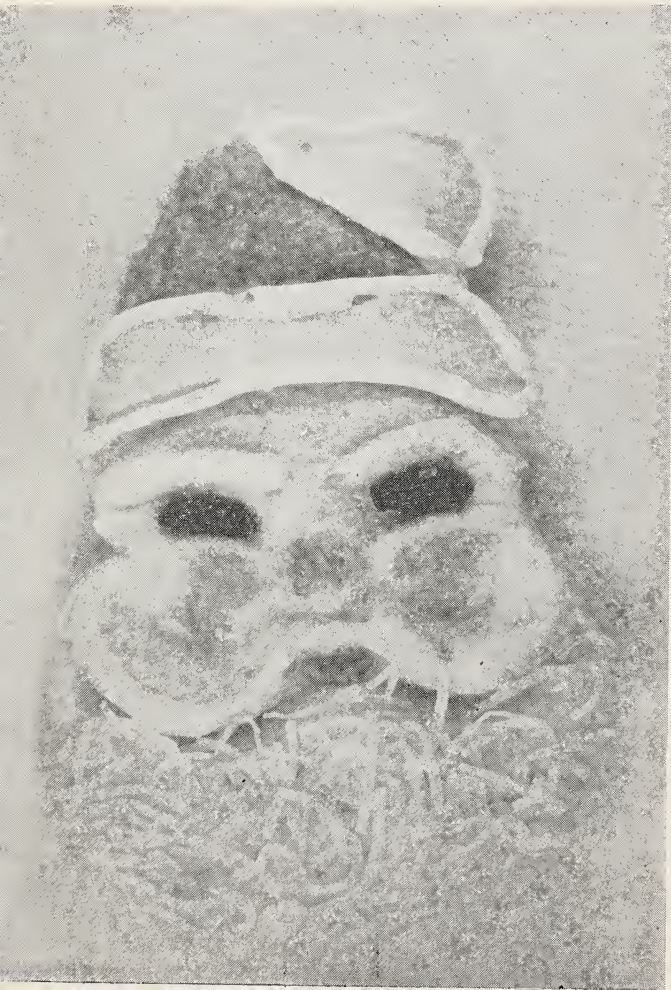
Santa's nose, cheek and cap: Beat small amount egg white slightly, add red food coloring, paint nose, cheeks and cap. Sprinkle with red sugar.

Mustache and eyebrows: Spread with white of egg frosting, with small amount of sugar added to thicken. Press moist canned coconut on beard area.

Dry, wrap in cellophane, tie on the tree with red. yarn. Entered by Mrs. Royce.



The cards above were entered by Mrs. Florence C. Royce, 797 S. Del Mar Avenue, San Gabriel, California. Some of Mrs. Royce's cards are made from used cards and others are original ideas made from, "bits of this and that," she says.



PLANTING BY THE MOON

Ada Muir, Langley Prairie, B. C., Canada

The position of the moon from earliest times has been studied for all gardening operations. One man who ridiculed this and said he planted when he felt like it was asked to keep notes about when he planted, sowed seeds, weeded, etc. On comparing this with moon positions we found that he could not have chosen better dates had he consulted moon phases, so perhaps all true gardeners are governed by moods, and these are in harmony with moon positions.

For planting or sowing seeds of those plants which produce their crop above ground, days should be chosen after the new moon but before the full moon. That will allow two weeks, but during this period some days will give better results than others. For the signs of the Zodiac are divided into earth, air, fire and water; and each of these will have a different effect on growth.

The following are the dates of the new moon for the year 1955, and the times as given are for Greenwich, noon, as Greenwich is the time clock of the world. Alter this to suit your own time according to your distance from London, England.

NEW MOON dates: January 24, 1:03 a. m.; February 22, 3:52 p. m.; March 24, 3:40 a. m.; April 22, 1:05 p. m.; May 21, 8:59 p. m.; June 20, 4:12 a. m.; July 19, 11:34 a. m.; August 17,

8:00 p. m.; September 16, 6:22 a. m.; October 15, 7:35 p. m.; November 14, noon; December 14, 7:07 a. m.

We choose those days when the moon is passing through earth or water signs as being most favorable, and these are as follows: January 3, 4, 26, 27, 30, 31; February 3, 4, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28; March 3, 4, 7, 26, 27, 30, 31; April 22, 23, 26, 27; May 1, 2, 24, 25, 28, 29; June 20, 21, 24, 25, 29, 30; July 22, 23, 26, 27, 31; August 1, 18, 19, 23, 24, 28, 29; September 19, 20, 24, 25, 29, 30; October 16, 17, 21, 22, 26, 27, 31; November 18, 19, 23, 24, 27, 28; December 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28, 29.

FULL MOON, which means when moon and sun are opposite one another, takes place on January 8, February 5, March 8, April 7, May 6, June 5, July 5, August 3, September 2, October 1 and 31, November 29, December 29.

During the two weeks from NEW to FULL MOON is the growing season, but from FULL to NEW is the best period for pruning, weeding, spraying, etc., and all those operations that tend to check growth. It is also the best period for sowing seeds of vegetables that produce their crop underground. For instance, if you set your gladiola bulbs underground during these periods you are likely to get many extra bulbs, but growth is slow above ground. All bulbous growth responds in a similar way, so if you want to increase your crop of dahlias for next season choose the dates after the full moon.

For African violets, for best success, choose the dates after the new moon for seed sowing, taking leaves, dividing, transplanting, etc; but for removing injured leaves, spraying for disease, etc., use the dates after the full moon.

THE END

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR . . .

WHAT'S NEW IN VIOLETS FOR THE COMING YEAR? DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

RICHTER'S VERIBEST

Large clear blue blossom, with a deep, dark blue eye. Lovely foliage with nice dark reverse. Easy to groom into a large symmetrical show plant. Will be ready for spring sales.

Also featuring Calumet Beacon, Calumet Queen, Curly Top, El Capitan, Taj Mahal and Grenadier.

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RICHTER'S GREENHOUSE

607 HOFFMAN STREET

HAMMOND, INDIANA

(Three blocks west of U. S. 41 and 1 block south of Ind. 312.)



Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd St.
Perry, Iowa

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

The June meeting of the African Violet Society of Utah, Chapter One, was held at the Civic Center in Salt Lake City. An excellent program on fluorescent lighting was provided by the program chairman, Mrs. H. A. Zobrish. After the meeting refreshments were served.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Louis P. Matthei
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. John H. Jones
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Harvey O. Snow
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Robert M. Hacker
Treasurer,	Mrs. Charles T. Bintz

Our constitution has been revised by a committee under the direction of Mrs. John H. Jones. The club has also received its first year book containing a membership roster and a full year's program.

Interest in African violets has greatly increased since the club was organized in December, 1951, when there were only five members of the National Society in Utah. Now there are thirty National members, most of whom are also members of the Utah Chapter.

LAWRENCE KANSAS

The Lawrence African Violet Club of Lawrence, Kansas, held its election of officers on August 6, 1954. The following were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Fred Richardson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ralph Lawson
Secretary,	Mrs. James A. Dove
Treasurer,	Mrs. Fred Kloepper

INDEPENDENCE KANSAS

On May 10, 1954, the members of the Independence African Violet Society of Independence, Kansas, and nine guests met in the home of Mrs. Warren Culp, with Mrs. Cyril Johnson as assisting hostess.

Mrs. W. E. Johnson, president, welcomed the guests to the combined Birthday Guest Day Tea in honor of the society's first birthday.

The program was colored slides from the Fischer Greenhouse and also local gardens and flower shows.

Following the program, tea was served. The centerpiece for the table was Pink Beauty and Pink Girl African violets, arranged in a crystal epergne with a pink candle on either side in crystal holders.

MARSHALL MISSOURI

The Saline Saintpaulia Club of Marshall, Missouri, in Saline County, has attained a full membership quota of twenty-four members. Meetings are held the third Friday of each month with two hostesses, one furnishing the meeting place, the other presenting the program. Refreshments are served only on special occasions.

In this group is found unusual interest in growing African violets, and many of its members take pride in growing show plants for exhibit in the Missouri State Fair, local fairs, local violet shows, state violet shows and even the show held in connection with the National convention in St. Louis, last April.

Club activities during the past year have varied; Guest speakers have been obtained for some meetings; a spring tea was held in March; during the Cerebral Palsy Association campaign the club sponsored a food sale, and the sizeable amount realized from this event was wholly donated; a flower garden tour was made in June, when the club recessed until September; to increase the club's bank account an auction was held where articles pertaining to the African violet hobby were offered for sale. This event created much entertainment for the group. Each Christmas there is a covered dish luncheon and gift exchange.

The successfulness of all the endeavors of this club is attributed to the whole-hearted cooperation of the members and their true spirit of friendship.

SONOMA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

The African Violet Society of Sonoma County, California, held their installation on June 15, 1954, at the home of Mrs. B. C. Plover, Santa Rosa, California. The members enjoyed a lovely pot luck luncheon, each member inviting a guest.

The following officers were installed for the year:

President,	Mrs. A. A. Marmor
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. W. Gillett
Treasurer,	Mrs. B. C. Plover
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. H. E. Morrow
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. G. L. Heck
Publicity Chm.,	Mrs. Eva Craig

KOKOMO INDIANA

The Town and Country African Violet Club of Kokomo, Indiana, met with Mrs. Fanny Gentry for the June meeting, and the following officers were installed:

President,	Mrs. Walter Rhine
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harold Roth
Secretary,	Mrs. Ernest Loveless
Treasurer,	Mrs. Bernard Kerby
Asst. Treas.,	Mrs. Emory Brooking
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. L. P. Hutto

DECORAH IOWA

The Friendship African Violet Club of Decorah, Iowa, was organized November 11, 1953, at the home of Mrs. Lyle Halverson. Officers elected for the year were as follows:

President,	Lillian Cornell
Vice-Pres.,	Helen Halverson
Secretary,	Gladys O'Neil
Treasurer,	Martha Edwards

During the spring months several of the club's members attended the annual Twin Cities show in Minneapolis and toured the greenhouses at Tonkadale, Minnesota. Other members attended the Mason City, Iowa, show.

In May the club members grouped their plants together at the home of Sylvia Kneeshern for their first exhibit. Mrs. H. H. Stevens of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was guest speaker, illustrating her talk with a slide program.

Plans are being made for the November meeting which will be a birthday party, complete with cake, favors and Saintpaulias for presents.

Roll call was introduction of guests. The club has a membership of seventeen, and meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.

New officers for the coming year are:

President,	Mrs. Ray Miller
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Minnie Clark
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Ike Graves

ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

The Holly Club of the African Violet Society of St. Louis and St. Louis County meet the third Tuesday of each month at the members' homes with a dessert luncheon and a business meeting.

One of the most outstanding events of the year was participating in the National convention held in St. Louis, an experience which will be long remembered.

The following are the officers elected for 1954:

President,	Mrs. Joe J. Gersbacher
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Minerva Scheid
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Martin C. Miller
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Lee Klaski
Treasurer,	Mrs. Minnie Hamper

Rooted AFRICAN VIOLET Leaves

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

A postcard from you to me brings
by return mail my list -- and it will
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STIM-U-PLANT
AFRICAN VIOLET
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Formulated expressly for African Violet use. Assures more vivid, brilliantly beautiful blooms... sturdier growth... healthier plush-like leaves.

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3-TIER ALUMINUM VIOLET STAND

Here is a new kind of plant stand that rolls on noiseless plastic wheels from window to window or into the kitchen for watering! Unbelievably light in weight, sturdy, can't rust or tarnish. Use it indoors, outdoors or on the porch or terrace. African Violets, Gloxinias, all potted plants flourish on this stand because smooth-rolling wheels make it easy to turn so that all plants get their full share of light. Shape and dimensions of trays cause each and every plant to be placed at outside edge where all are easily reached for watering and turning.

Three 12" x 31" trays hold 20 to 30 large plants. No-drip rolled edges catch surplus water. Trays will hold up to 1/2" of water so no spillage runs off on floor. Stand is 37" high to top of handles, trays are 10 1/2" apart. Folds flat to 3" for handy storage when not in use. The 3-Tier Aluminum Plant Stand serves a double purpose as it can also be used as a smart looking hostess cart.

The rich, satiny aluminum finish is etched and lacquered to prevent oxidation. Easily cleaned with damp cloth. Specify Natural Aluminum Finish or Decorated Baked Enamel Finish in Flame Red, Leaf Green or Ebony with hardwood handles. Natural Aluminum Finish with metal handles \$12.95 ppd.

Baked Enamel Finish with hardwood handles \$15.95 ppd.

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MUNDELEIN, ILLINOIS

NORTHERN ILLINOIS COUNCIL

The African Violet District Council of Northern Illinois held its first annual spring luncheon in the First Congregational Church of Downers Grove on Monday, June 7, 1954. The Downers Grove African Violet Club acted as hostess club with the members of the Berwyn Saintpaulia Society assisting.

A delicious luncheon was served at long tables attractively decorated with African violets and other spring flowers.

Mrs. G. P. McGraw, general chairman, called upon Mrs. E. G. Magill, president of the National African Violet Society, for greetings. Mrs. Samuel Rowe, chairman of the Affiliated Chapters, spoke of the work of her committee.

Officers for the year 1954-1955 were introduced:

President,	Mrs. Frank Loucks, Lockport, Ill.
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Margaret Cedervall, Love Pk.
Treasurer,	Mrs. Samuel Rowe, Aurora
Secretary,	Mrs. Stanley MacLaren, Berwyn

Mrs. Allen Moore of Berwyn introduced the speaker of the afternoon, Mr. Henry C. Peterson of Cincinnati, Ohio. His illustrated lecture on the Saintpaulia was most interesting and instructive.

LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles African Violet Society ended a most successful year the first Monday of June, 1954. This was the sixth anniversary.

Through the untiring efforts of the officers and the wonderful cooperation of the members the year was highlighted with a most successful bazaar in November, 1953, a delightful Christmas party, and a show the seventh and eighth of May that far exceeded all expectations. There was a splendid exhibit of specimen African violets most attractively displayed, and the climax was the wonderful way the public supported this show.

The club is proud to have contributed two hundred dollars to the Boyce Eden's Research Fund and also to have given generously to the Cassa Collina Hospital for crippled children.

As a birthday meeting a presidents' tea was enjoyed by the presidents of the southern California clubs.

Officers for the coming year are:

President,	Miss Margaret Garbutt
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Jack Gosmann
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Mac B. Pearson
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Margaret Goehler
Treasurer,	Mrs. Edna Klitten
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Charlotte Berry
Mem. Secy.,	Mrs. Norman Cobb

Always uppermost is the desire to supply the very best of programs and in every way try to advance the interest and culture of African violets.

INGLEWOOD CALIFORNIA

The Inglewood, California, chapter of the African Violet Society of America will celebrate its third birthday in August. The chapter holds its meetings on the first Monday of every month at the Inglewood Recreation Center, at one o'clock. There are fifty-one National members.

The officers for 1954 are:

President,	Dorothy Knirck
Vice-Pres.,	Emily Skaff
Rec. Secy.,	Leora Readout
Corres. Secy.,	Marjorie Minor
Treasurer,	Alice Thomas

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The First African Violet Club of Chicago, Illinois, had a very impressive installation at the Pantry, Park Ridge, Illinois, on June 3, 1954. Mrs. E. G. Magill, president of the National Society, conducted the ceremony. The following officers were elected for 1954-1955:

President,	Miss Alice Johnson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Elmer Szontagh
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Stephen Mueller
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Wm. Fowkes
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. John Nelson
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. E. Nelson
Historian,	Mrs. Loman Green

HIGHTSTOWN NEW JERSEY

Not every club goes on a picnic and enjoys a trip at the same time. However, that is just what the African Violet Club of Hightstown, New Jersey, did when they entertained the members of the Rancocas Violet Club in July.

After a covered dish dinner, held in a picnic area near Hightstown, Miss Dorothy Ashton, program chairman of the Hightstown club, took the group on a trip extending west to the coast and north into Canada. Miss Ashton had written letters to the presidents of violet clubs in ten different states asking for any interesting club activities, and the replies to these letters were read by members of the Hightstown club, forming the basis of the imaginary trip. Much interesting and helpful information was obtained in this way, as well as broadening the scope of violet friendship. It was voted the most clever and refreshing program of the year.

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"AFRICAN VIOLET HANDBOOK FOR EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES"

Complete information on Show plants, Show procedure, color classes of varieties, judges and judging, exhibits, insects and diseases.

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WINDOVER FLOWER POTS



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED CLAY FLOWER POTS MADE

Medium red color. Most are in the lovely stepped design as pictured. Unequalled for quality. Edges specially treated to protect stems and leaves of your plants. Customers say: "I like them better than any I have ever seen!"

1 3/4"	starting pots	— 36 for \$2.20
2"	starting pots	— 30 for 2.20
2 1/4"	starting pots	— 24 for 2.20
2 1/2"	starting pots	— 18 for 2.20
3"	squatty pots	— 14 for 2.20
4"	squatty pots	— 10 for 2.20
5"	squatty pots	— 6 for 2.20
3"	semi-squatty	— 14 for 2.20
5"	semi-squatty	— 6 for 2.20
5 1/2"	semi-squatty	— 5 for 2.20
3"	standard pots	— 14 for 2.20
4"	standard pots	— 9 for 2.20
4"	orchid pots	— 5 for 2.20

The following size pots now also available in color, green, yellow, white or red baked-on enamel, may be assorted:

3"	semi-squatty	— 10 for \$2.20
4"	squatty	— 8 for 2.20

All pots listed are stepped design except 3" and 4" standard, 5" and 5 1/2" semi-squatty and 4" orchid pots which have straight sides. All have treated edges. We replace any pots broken in shipping unless insured. For 100 or more write for special prices.

PLASTIC POT SAUCERS in lustrous black only: 3" - 14 for \$1.80 4" - 10 for \$1.85 5" - 6 for \$1.60

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Made with flaky leafmold (mostly oak) plus woodland top-soil, crushed sandstone, peat moss, wood-ashes, bone meal, superphosphate and charcoal. Will not pack. Sterilized with LARVACIDE to eliminate nematodes and other soil-borne troubles. Write for prices on larger quantities.

4 lbs. \$1.15 9 lbs. \$2.25 13 lbs. \$2.85
LIFETIME WHITE PLASTIC POT LABELS, 4 1/2": 75 for \$1.00 100 for \$1.25 500 for \$5.00
EVERMARK LABEL PENCILS, made especially for writing on all plant labels 20¢ each.

EVERYTHING POSTPAID EAST OF DENVER

Add 30¢ per unit for postage on all pots and saucers, west of Denver, Colorado. On potting soil write for extra postage needed west of Denver. Sorry no C.O.D.'s.

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PITTSBURGH SHOW — I am offering a \$25.00 Cash Award for the best Boyce M. Edens plant in the 1955 Show.

Plants of Giant Orchid, Shiner, Chieftain, \$2.00 each.

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PLASTIC LABELS

Miller's GREENPLAST 110 for \$1.00

INSECTICIDES

NNOR 6-oz. \$1.35
Sodium Selenate 12 caps \$1.00
Lindane 1-lb. \$1.10
Soilene 8-oz. \$1.00
Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Marvel
Spray, Detex, and others.

FUNGICIDES

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FERTILIZERS

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Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone,
Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Lime-
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FOR "ORGANIC" GROWING

Hydro-tite Rock Potash 3 lbs. \$1.60
Ruhm Phosphate Rock 3 lbs. 1.60
Michigan Peat ½ peck 1.40
Peat Moss, pulverized ½ bu. 1.25

SPONGE-ROK ½ bu. \$2.75 ppd.

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All sizes and lengths.

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GALENA ILLINOIS

The Galena African Violet Club of Galena, Illinois, was organized on June 11, 1954, with five very enthusiastic members. At that time the following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Jessie Nash Strand
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Chris J. Bahr
Secretary,	Miss Anita Siniger
Treasurer,	Mrs. Carl Schoenard

The membership has increased to thirteen, and on July 24, 1954, the club was affiliated with the National Society.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at the homes of the members for the study of the various phases of the growing of African violets, with meetings to close with refreshments and a social hour.

SPRINGFIELD PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, met at the home of Mrs. Ralph Frye on June 1, 1954. Luncheon was served at twelve o'clock, with Mrs. R. B. Carll and Mrs. Florence Muntz acting as co-hostesses.

The following officers were installed for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. J. V. Turner
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Carlos Rios
Treasurer,	Mrs. Frank Carr
Secretary,	Mrs. W. J. Wrigley
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Ralph Frye

The year just past was a happy one for the Society. Their show, held on May 1, 1954, was a success, the visit to Fischer's Greenhouses was enjoyed by all, as well as the visit to the Salem County African violet show. The patients at the hospital enjoyed the beautiful flowers given them at Thanksgiving and Easter, and the children there enjoyed the cookies and candy at Christmas and Valentine's Day. The club has taken on a new project -- testing different fertilizers given us by the different companies. This project is being carried on into the coming year.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Rose Onna Chapter of the First African Violet Society of Chicago, Illinois, held their final meeting of the year on June 11, 1954, at the Pantry, Park Ridge, Illinois.

After a luncheon and business meeting, the following officers were installed by Mrs. Ernest Pfaff:

President,	Mrs. Harry Bell
Vice-President,	Mrs. William Brinkman
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Herbert Bantz
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Henry Collignon
Treasurer,	Mrs. Allen Wideburg

These officers will hold office until June, 1955. This chapter meets the second Monday of every month in the homes of the members.

GADSDEN ALABAMA

The African Violet Club of Gadsden, Alabama, installed the following officers for the year 1954-1955:

President,	Mrs. W. E. Mayben, Sr.
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. H. J. Streip
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. E. M. Lewis

The installation was beautiful in its simplicity. The Fifteenth Chapter of John was read. Each new officer was presented an African violet as a symbol of growth and instructed in the duties of her office.

The club was organized in October, 1953, and became affiliated with the National Society in December, 1953. The club now has a membership of thirty. Meetings are held the third Wednesday afternoon of each month at the Recreation Center, and night meetings are scheduled periodically for those who are unable to attend during the afternoon.

TRENTON NEW JERSEY

The African Violet Club of Trenton, New Jersey, elected the following officers for 1954:

President,	Mrs. Monte Norcross
Vice-Pres.,	Mr. George Pettingill
Secretary,	Mrs. Michael Sayko
Treasurer,	Mrs. Leonard Ferry
Historian,	Mrs. Richard Hillman
Publicity,	Mrs. John G. Skelton
Year Book,	Mrs. Ernest Everist

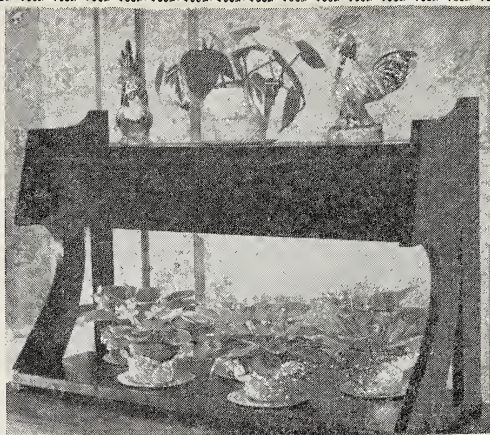
BLISS IDAHO

The Bliss Saintpaulia Society of Bliss, Idaho, held their first guest day and plant display on May 26, 1954, at the Bliss Grange Hall, with thirteen members displaying over one hundred blooming plants of more than seventy varieties.

The president, Mrs. Herbert Gridley, gave the welcome address and was in charge of the program. Mrs. P. W. Huyser prepared and read an article entitled "Our First Year."

Mrs. Herbert Stroud and Mrs. John Huff were in charge of the badges and the guest book. Forty-three ladies signed the guest book.

Open-faced sandwiches, cookies and coffee were served. Mrs. Leslie Parsons and Mrs. Farrell Christopherson poured.



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SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

The Sacramento Saintpaulia Society of Sacramento, California, elected the following officers for the year beginning June 1, 1954:

President,	Mrs. W. F. Rose
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. F. J. Pribble
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. J. Cameron
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. R. E. Hertel
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. W. H. Steinhaus

DETROIT MICHIGAN

The Detroit African Violet Club of Detroit, Michigan, invited a representative from all the violet clubs in the vicinity to a get-acquainted luncheon held at the home of Mrs. Ronald Reaume on June 9, 1954, with Mrs. Reaume, hostess, and Mrs. J. Biel, co-hostess.

Mrs. H. Shinville and Mrs. S. Dulz were in charge of refreshments, Mrs. L. Beil the guest book, Mrs. C. Rose showed violets, Mrs. A. C. Foster, photographer and Mrs. M. Randall, door prizes. The club projects were displayed on a table which all guests could examine if they wished, photographs were taken and hand painted African violet aprons were given as door prizes.

The following clubs sent representatives: Windsor West (Canada) African Violet Club; Windsor Saintpaulia Society (Canada); Cheer Club of Royal Oak, Michigan; Border Cities African Violet Club of Detroit.

ROCHESTER NEW YORK

The African Violet Society of Rochester, New York, and Vicinity met on June 4, 1954, for its regular business meeting and election of officers.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Fred Flory
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Arthur Barnes
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Miss Mae Crompton
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Martin Downs
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Dwight Specht
Treasurer,	Mr. Philip E. Johnson

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I'll Bloom My Heart Out For You,

All the days of my life.

If you don't like ME,

You'll Be Sure To Like

My SISTERS and My

BROTHERS, MY WHOLE

BLOOMIN' FAMILY'S

HERE, Even The

YOUNG SPROUTS

(leaves) Too.

Signed:

Miss African Violet

At

EMMA J'S HOUSE OF FLOWERS

MILAN, INDIANA

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A squeeze of the finger and out comes a fine water-fog mist as gently as a fog settling in. One hand operates sprayer leaving other hand free to hold or turn plants. Molded of very heavy plastic with stainless steel springs. Durability tests prove amazingly long trouble-free life. Finely atomized mist is economical and effective for insecticides, fungicides or water-fog mist. Insert in any standard pint or quart bottle with threaded neck.

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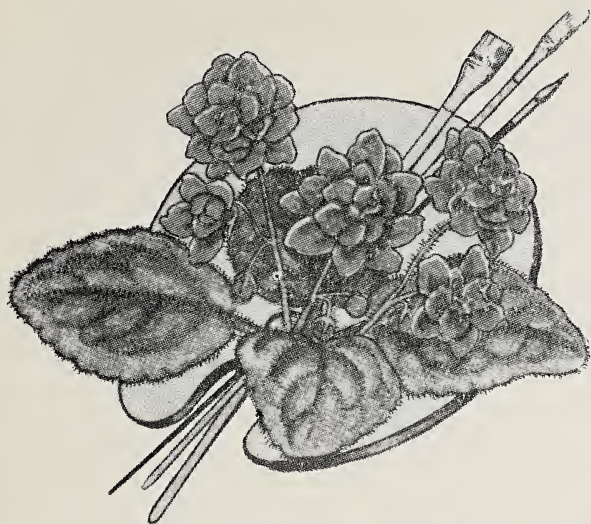
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For The New Year . .

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1954-55

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May the joy and blessings of the Christmas season, fill your home with warmth and happiness throughout the New Year.

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African Violet

MAGAZINE

MARCH 1955

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 3

She's Wonderful

She's Marvelous

"Miss Annabelle Lee"

See her and take her home with you from the National Convention. A huge soft fully double Lavender Bicolored bloom on very pretty dark green girl foliage, with that desirable veining that is so attractive in girl foliage. We feel it is one of the best we have developed so far.

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Large semi-cupped white ruffled blooms with rose shading in the center and on the ruffle. These lovely blooms are held well above good du Pont type foliage. The foliage is not brittle, but very easy to handle without the usual breakage.

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The much awaited semi-double Painted Girl. You will love its intense coloring on the clean dark green girl foliage.

The three above varieties will be for sale at Pittsburgh

A word about the folks at Granger Gardens . . .

So often the question arises as to who is who at Granger Gardens. Here is the answer. Hugh Eyerdom does all the plant breeding from planned crosses. Grace F. is Hugh's wife and does the selecting of the seedlings and naming of same. Dale Eyerdom is the son and assumes full charge of all shipping and growing, etc. Grace A. is Dale's wife and is our bookkeeper and secretary, etc. Edith Simmons is the daughter of Hugh and Grace and assists with correspondence, etc. The secret of our success is due to the fact that we work to ether very well as a family and the men do all the building of our greenhouses. Granger Gardens, Inc., is the outcome of the personal hobby of Grace F. and is only six years old. We have grown from one small bench to nine greenhouses. We were forced to dispense with our retail Mail Order business when our wholesale business grew so large. Retail sales are confined to the greenhouses only and visitors are always welcome.

GRANGER GARDENS, Inc.

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Double

Pinks



We are now accepting orders for April and May shipping. These are shipped in 2¼" pots in bud and flower, in special packing and sent special handling. The double pinks will be released at the greenhouse on March 31, 1955, which is also the date of the Twin Cities violet show.

ALL ORDERS UNDER \$10.00 MUST INCLUDE 75¢ FOR PACKING, SPECIAL HANDLING AND POSTAGE.

PINK ACHIEVEMENT—

Best seedling award winner at St. Louis convention. Medium dble. pink with medium green foliage \$5.00

PINK ROCKET—

Darker dble. pink with darker foliage \$3.50

PINK IDEAL—

Lovely dble. light pink which glistens in light, with dark foliage \$3.50

Buy the collection of three double pinks for only \$10.00.

The following varieties are also our own originations and were shown at St. Louis.
2¼" pots at \$1.25 each

HI-LOAS— Cobalt Blue, Light Blue, Purple, White—

All Hi-Loas have fringed and wavy flowers and wavy foliage, excellent bloomers and long lasting flowers.

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Dark purple flower, single, and very dark girl type foliage.

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White single flowers on very dark foliage.

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Two tone reddish purple dble., dark foliage.

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Light blue single, also prolific bloomer.

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Medium blue single, which is a very prolific bloomer with long lasting flowers.

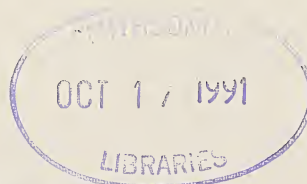
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African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL STAFF

Vol. 8

March 1955

No. 3

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President's Message

Pittsburgh Swings the Gates Wide Open!!



Mr. Johnson

Just a few short weeks more and we will be on our way to Pittsburgh. We are fortunate this year in having our Convention during the week that follows Easter, as many teachers and others who have Easter vacations will be able this year to attend our Convention and Show. April 14, 15, and 16, at the William Penn Hotel is the date and place where African violet friends, fans, fanciers, etc. will meet.

Mrs. William C. Douglas and Mrs. Ross Harness, General Co-Chairmen, have most capable assistants and co-workers who are really planning an outstanding Convention. I know that they will not disappoint us.

Have you reread all the many awards that were printed in the last issue? Our Convention is one of the few National Conventions -- and I doubt if any would have better awards. Truly it will be an honor to win any one of these.

I want to say "Thanks a Million" to our good friend, Evan Roberts, who was responsible for the Index in our last issue. It is a noble job well done!

This year our Convention swings to the East -- next year to a more central region. Many invitations come in from various hotels and from all parts of the country. If your group or area is not successful in getting the Convention this year -- please continue your invitations. Help to spread your keen enthusiasm for a successful bid. How about bids from the West Coast?

Please remember that your membership cards are now dated on a monthly basis as was voted by the Board of Directors at the 1954 meeting.

Remember to continue to send in your fine articles to the "African Violet Magazine." Others want to learn from your experiences. Please remember deadline dates. It is becoming more necessary to observe these -- and this goes especially to our advertisers.

Special note to Board Members: Board Meeting will be held on April 13, at 10:00 a. m. at the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Floyd L. Johnson".

BUYER'S GUIDE

The Buyer's Guide wishes to thank each of you who have sent in your choice twenty-five list. The committee wishes each of you to send your list, as they feel the "Best One Hundred Varieties" can only be determined by receiving choice twenty-five lists from all parts of the country. No list will be accepted that is post-marked later than June 1. Please list your choice twenty-five and mail as early as possible to the chairman, Mrs. Sam O. Nichols, 246 Madison Boulevard, Madison, Tennessee. Remember we are counting on you to help us.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED

Mixture A —

more than fifty single flowered named varieties -- 300 seeds \$1.00.

Mixture B —

from varieties having "girl type" foliage -- 150 seeds \$1.00.

Mixture C —

from single flowered varieties crossed with double flowered varieties -- 150 seeds \$2.00.

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4725 E. 35th St.

Indianapolis, Ind.

OUR VIOLET GROUP

Several violet enthusiasts in our area have formed a little group . . . purpose . . . exchange of ideas on the care and propagation of Saintpaulias. Once a month we meet in our homes for a pot-luck luncheon, and have such informative sessions, I tho't others might like to hear of them.

Promptly at noon (or nearly so), we gather with our well-filled baskets, and before you can say "Polly put the kettle on," we have our food arranged on table, buffet, server, etc., until the room resembles the Woman's Building at the Fair. We carry our heaped-up plates to the table, and start on the topic of conversation uppermost in our minds at this time of the meeting, diets; . . . what we are doing . . . or have stopped doing, or are going to do -- to lose weight. This engrossing subject carries us through two go-rounds of the main course, and well into the dessert, after which we settle back and start our round-table discussions. So many good hints are exchanged at this time, that, at the last meeting, I decided to sit quietly back and just drink in all the ideas gleaned from the various members. The session started with a discussion of Marguerite's new seedling, and went thus:

"She crossed a good white on Lady Geneva, and really has a better edge, altho' the blossom itself is a little . . . wobbly! Looks like crown rot, or even nematode to me! Think I'd use the Clorox treatment if it was me . . . you take . . . twelve bottle caps, and crochet around them to form these little purple hats, then pull them up, and they form a . . . perfect rosette, with the blossoms well up over the plant, for all the world like . . . six prunes for supper, and that is all you can eat. Then in the morning take . . . good dry barn-yard fertilizer, mix it with your dirt and sand and . . . simmer thirty minutes in weak vinegar water. When clear add just a pinch of . . . soot . . . right out of your chimney . . . Best thing in the world for your begonias!" . . . And, Dear Friends, I hope you get as much good out of these hints as I did.

THE END

LOST MEMBERS

Please help us find them. See page 69.

BETTER AFRICAN VIOLETS



- DE-ODORIZED
- NON-BURNING
- 100% ORGANIC

A balanced diet for Saintpaulias -- contains 22 natural trace minerals and plant food essentials. ¼ teaspoon ATLAS per quart water for AFRICAN VIOLETS -- feed 10-14 days. At Nurseries & Garden Stores

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A BALANCED ORGANIC FISH FERTILIZER

PILGRIMS
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MY AFRICAN VIOLET GRAFTS

Gladys Prince, Sioux Falls, S. D.

Grafting is fun. For a long time I wondered where all the different colors came from that we now have in African violets. Everyone's natural instinct tells them they are supposed to be purple or white. After seeing many colors and collecting them, I began to wonder if I, too, could change the colors just a little.

After much thought, I decided to take two leaves of my original colors, purple and white, plant them together, and see what would happen. So I grafted them together, planted them in African violet potting soil in a small can, and covered them with a glass. When the leaves started to grow I noticed I had plants that looked like the white violet foliage and some that looked like the purple violet foliage. Each plant that grew from the graft, I potted separately and marked. This work was started in May, 1953.

Now I have a full grown plant that is definitely something different. The leaves are more heart shaped than the parent plants. The foliage is thick and has marked, veined leaves, which have a purple cast underneath. The leaves are rather shiny. The plant measures nine inches across. The leaves are not fuzzy like the Blue Boy violet and do not hang down. They stay free of the pot.

This graft which I am going to call graft No. 1, has had around twenty-five blooms since it started blooming the first week in May. It is now the end of May and there are numerous buds, which should keep it blooming for a long time. The blooms hang on very good. They have sort of lavender pink top petals and just a shade lighter bottom petals. There are purple markings around the anthers and sort of lavender purple feelers. The anthers are a golden yellow.

The petals have captured the sand-papery glisten of the white violet.

I am planning for pictures of this Blue Boy and White graft No. 1. I have started leaves off this graft and will do so four consecutive times to see if the color remains true. If so, I will name it.

Graft No. 2 (white and red) was started the same day as graft No. 1. The plant from this graft has foliage of both parent plants. Some leaves resemble the Red Head with red underneath, and some are definitely white violet foliage.

The blooms are red, only a lighter red than the Red Head. There are purple markings around the anthers which are gold. And the feelers are red-purple. There is a distinct white touch. And the white sand-papery glisten has been captured in these blooms. These petals are thick. It is blooming good. It has had eleven blooms since it started two weeks ago, and has a lot of buds. I wanted to enclose a picture of this violet also, but the picture didn't turn out.

There isn't much of a trick to grafting, just so you get the stems well fused together and keep them that way with scotch tape. Then covering them with a glass helps to keep the two leaves from drying, which gives them a better chance to grow. Don't remove the glass until you see the small plants are a good size -- and don't transplant immediately. Let them get their strength first and used to the air. Use of a fork to remove from the original pot also helps, as you don't handle the roots too much.

I hope I have started something, and you can be sure I will be waiting to hear if anyone else has the luck I had.

THE END

DOUBLE PINK LEAVES

"PINK BOUNTIFUL"

from

NEW YORK STATE

Shown at St. Louis Convention

"MISS OHIO"

from

OHIO

To be shown at Pittsburgh Convention

\$1.50 each

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HYDROPONIC Chemical Co., Inc. Copley, O.



Poets Corner

A PIONEER'S ADVICE

You may have new varieties
Which you think are swell,
But being one of the first
I have this story to tell.
Some of you may not care
So much for me, no doubt!
But this advice I give
To help your new varieties out.
April showers sent
From the Father above,
Make all the flowers more beautiful
For you to love.

So dear African violet lovers,
When a rain cloud appears
Put out all the containers
You have collected thru the years.
Your new violet varieties
Will be delighted beyond a doubt,
To get a good rain-water drink
Instead of from the kitchen spout.

Mrs. C. M. Perry
Marshall, Mo.

VIOLET FRIENDS

Let's stroll down the Violet Path,
With all its curves and bends.
Let's share this mutual love of ours,
Let's be "Violet Friends."
You introduce me to your brood,
And I'll proudly present mine, --
"Bronze Queen" with her "Purple Knight"
And so on down the line.
We'll talk about our boys and girls,
Pink and blue, and white as snow.
How often do they eat and drink?
Just what we do to make them grow.
Let's walk the Violet Path together,
With all its curves and bends.
Let's share this mutual love of ours.
Oh, let's be "Violet Friends!"

Mrs. Carl W. Richert
Marysville, Michigan

GROWING PAINS

I have a little hobby
That suits me to a "T"
But what can be the use of it
My husband can not see.
There are a lot of bowls and pans
Just brimming full of leaves,
But why I have so many
Is one of his pet peeves.
My windows, jammed with flower pots,
Elbowing for more space,
Will sometimes bring a few "choice" words
Or a frown upon his face.
"Why not get rid of just a few?"
He'll say in desperate tone,
"For if you don't, they surely will
Crowd us from house and home."

With all the best intentions
I take a friend a few;
She just received a shipment
Of varieties brand new!
She gives me this, she gives me that
She just can't seem to stop!
Oh, when my husband sees all these,
He'll surely blow his top!

But he just smiles, a knowing smile,
And says, he might have known;
For there is always just one more
I feel I have to own.

Josephine Charles

"THE SECRET"

I've heard these words so often
You all have heard them too,
I'm sure she has a secret
That she won't tell me and you.

Yes, I have a secret
But I'm sure you know it best,
I just care for my violets
But God, He does the rest.

Stella Dietz
Pittsburgh, Pa.

A FORTUNATE MISFORTUNE

Of lucky things in life that I have known
Which came disguised in old Misfortune's role,
The best of thrills was tons of darkest coal
That teemed with bits of pleasing fossil-stone;
For stoker's sake I daily picked them out --
Posthumous fragments dropped on carbon vein;
The years in millions nursed that warm domain
Of ancient beauties -- pressed, so to remain.

What gifts were these from God's creative mind,
Of life on land and in the teeming seas,
In plants, their sorts by thousands, giant trees;
What queries mine to classify each find,
Like these round leaves, five-petaled flowers --
Did they preview Saintpaulia's premiere hours?

Ulysses R. Perrine

STREPTOCARPUS

Catherine B. Shepherd, Arlington, Virginia

Streptocarpus, a genus of choice herbaceous plants, akin to Gloxinia and Saintpaulia, have fibrous roots, broad basal leaves and capsular seed-pods. Several species are represented, the majority being natives of Tropical and South Africa. One specie *S. FANNINII* is a native of Australia, and another *S. ORIENTALIS* comes from Siam.

In the past some confusion has existed between the two genera *Streptocarpus* and *Didymocarpus*; certain species of the former were included in the latter, and vice versa. Botanists have straightened out most of the differences and now there is less confusion botanically.

Other species are stemless with spreading opposite leaves, such as occur in most of our present-day hybrid strains, the flowers arising from the crown or center of the plants. *S. REXII*, a South African specimen, is typical.

In some species there is only one leaf in the adult stage, the cotyledon leaf developing to an enormous extent. The other cotyledon leaf is abortive, and fails to develop. This is a characteristic of *S. WENDLANDII*, and *S. DUNNII*, both natives of South Africa and spoken of as the one-leaved *Streptocarpus*. These plants although weird in growth, form good plants, and they produce a number of fine stems twelve to eighteen inches in height. Each individual stem is branched and bears a number of good sized flowers. *S. WENDLANDII* is bluish-mauve and *S. DUNNII* rose colored.

Although *S. REXII* was first introduced from South Africa in 1824, it was not until sixty years later that other species were brought into cultivation, and hybridizing between the species commenced. The origin of the present-day *Streptocarpus* is interesting, for it was with the introduction to Kew in 1886 of *S. DUNNII* from the Transvaal that led to various crosses being made, which had most valuable results. As previously stated *S. DUNNII* has only one large leaf, and from the base, the flower stems, bearing rose colored flowers, are produced. When crossed with *S. REXII* a smaller plant with numerous leaves and slender flower stems was the result, each stem carrying one or two bluish flowers. Thus *S. KEWENSIS* came into existence and has proved to be a valuable hybrid. A further cross between *S. DUNNII* and *S. PARVIFLORUS* produced another good hybrid with small white flowers. Further crosses between these hybrids and their parents produced a most interesting lot of plants varied in color from white to crimson and deep blue. The Veitch's,

noted seedsmen and nurserymen at that time, continued to breed and improve them by further crossing the Kew hybrids with other species. Crosses with *S. POLYANTHUS*, another one-leaved specie with blue flowers produced the *achimeniflorus* race, plants with many flowers and numerous leaves in rosette form. *S. FANNINII* from Australia was crossed with the Kew hybrids and gave us the *pulchellus* type.

It is from the hybridizing carried out at Kew, and later by Veitch's, that the present-day large flowered *Streptocarpus* has been developed. It is remarkable such a wonderful color range has resulted, and more remarkable still, with the exception of the red colors, they come true from seeds, providing they are fertilized with their own pollen. It is fortunate that the cultivation of the hybrid *Streptocarpus* presents little difficulty, for although they were treated as warm greenhouse plants, they can be grown just as well, and with possibly better results, when afforded cool greenhouse conditions. Some heat is of course necessary during the initial stages of growth, but otherwise they grow readily under cool treatment as do the *Begonia* and *Pelargonium*.

Although *Streptocarpus* is strictly a perennial, the best results are obtained when grown as a biennial. If a heated greenhouse is available seeds should be sown in February and March to produce flowering plants the following August. During the World War years, when fuel was so scarce, it was discovered that seed of many tropical plants sown in June and July produced better plants. From the beginning of their lives the seedlings were stronger, and very quickly adapted themselves to the temperatures given. Growth was rapid and by autumn one had a really good collection of young but virile plants, ready to be wintered in much lower temperatures than would have been considered possible fifty years ago.

The named varieties were, of course, propagated vegetatively, and the best of the seed-raised specimens can be increased this way. Fairly young leaves should be removed, and the ribs cracked at intervals; then the leaf is laid quite flat in a pan of fine compost or sandy peat. The leaves can be pressed into the compost, but it is safe to peg them down with pieces of wire. Roots and miniature leaves form rapidly at the fractures, and these plants can be potted and grown on. Leaves will root also in the same manner as African violets.

THE END



Keep this -- discard this? No keep it!!

DOUBLE from DOLGEVILLE

by Lyndon Lyon as told to Vera Covert

Every one is patiently waiting for the time when they can buy **DOUBLE PINKS**. Did I say "patiently?" Well, they are waiting! Nearly everyone wants to know, "Where did they come from?" Now I can't answer that completely.

There are several already "born." I can only answer regarding the ones that we have propagated. I would like to say that we studied for months, then went to work -- but that wouldn't be wholly true.

The facts of the matter are these. You have heard that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Well, my friends, that hand also pokes around among violets. One day in 1951 I was working on a bench of our plants and saw a seed pod. I called to my good wife. "What is this?"

Ruth answered, "Well, I sort of fooled around a little -- that is -- I mean -- I thought -- well, if you must know, I did some pollinating."

"What was your cross?" I growled.

"Pink Cheer on Rainbow Rose," she replied.

"And what do you expect to get?"

"Why, I thought maybe I'd get variegated blue and white."

That cross was like the small push that looses the first lump of snow, and **before you** can jump out of the way there is suddenly an avalanche. We talked about possibilities. Knowing that single pinks had two genes for pink and in the doubles the double gene was dominant, it seemed genetically simple to produce a **double pink**. But someone must be working on it already. According to the violet grapevine, many were working on it but failing.



Double Blue -- "Good," we said, "this is it!"

"Why?" we asked ourselves. Maybe they were using the wrong pinks.

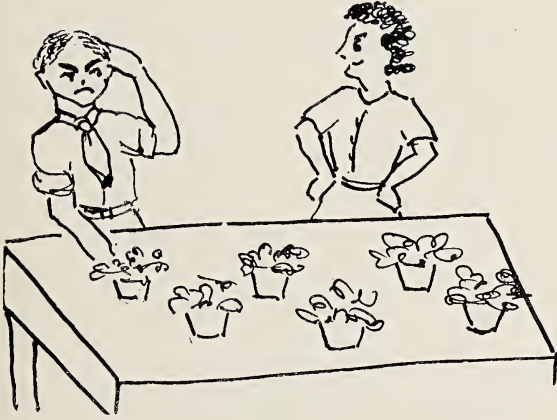
Time went by, and the seeds of Ruth's cross were planted. They grew and finally bloomed. About half were double blues. "Good," we said, "This is it." These doubles had one gene for pink on the first cross, the double gene was dominant, so we crossed every available pink into the blue doubles. Almost endless crosses were made, avoiding in-breeding when possible in order to get stronger plants with larger blooms. In almost every plant we never used a plant with two dominant genes for one characteristic. All our doubles have a gene for singleness. We want to know strength or weakness for the dominant gene.

In the process of crossing, hundreds of seedlings resulted. Obviously, some must be discarded. Which ones? Each day we looked. Keep



"What is this?"

Illustrations by Vera Covert



"Hey! Isn't this the one I discarded?"

this one, discard this one -- no, better keep it. Finally we narrowed down to fifty, selected for vigor, shape and color of leaf. I said fifty -- again my wife poked her hand in, and fifty-one were saved. Some were broadleafed with big, fluffy pink blooms. Others had more quilted leaves and smaller blooms. Some were deep pink, some were more pale.

Now about that fifty-first one. While checking plants one day, I said to Ruth, "Hey, isn't this one I discarded?"

She hesitated, then said, "Yes, it is, but I like it! I even propagated some!"

That's a woman for you. And that fifty-first one turned out to be very interesting. It has a flat formation of petals, and in the center is a wee tuff of petals, so we called it "Pink Puff."

After long months of patient crossing and re-crossing, discarding some and keeping others -- we have several double pinks. While we aren't exactly satisfied and are constantly working for improvement, some of these doubles seem worth registering. Those we like to date are "Double Pink Cloud," Double "Honey-Bun," "Double Wild Rosa," "Double Pink Cheer," and "Double Pink Puff."

So we arrived at a double pink. Contrary to what you may think, this isn't the end. Instead, we think it's a nice beginning. The present white



"Pink Puff" became a favorite



How would you like a Double Pink Fringette?

varieties have blue genes plus suppressive genes which suppress the blue. Now if crosses could be made with white, which have genes to suppress the pink instead of blue, you might see a whole new field of pinks, i.e. white with a pink eye, white with a pink edge, white with a pink stripe or marbling. And how would you like a double pink with a frilled edge, like Ruffled Queen or Pink Fringette?

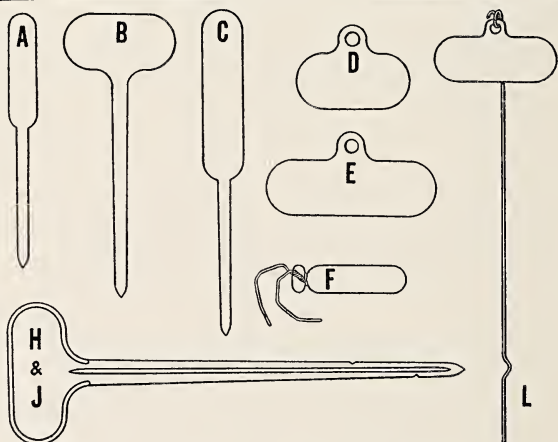
In a few years you will all be saying, "Remember the first double pinks? We thought they were lovely. I'm not growing any now, these new introductions are so much better. I thought the first double pink could never be improved, but just look at this one."

Don't forget, the world laughed at the first man who tried to fly like a bird. "Utterly ridiculous," folks said. Air travel in 1955 is an accepted part of daily living. And in the years to come, hybridizers will produce varieties as superior to our present ones as the airplane is superior to the old covered wagon.

THE END

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FLUORESCENT LIGHTS and SAINTPAULIAS

Courtesy of The Ohio Florist's Association Bulletin

The April, 1952, issue of this Bulletin gave you the results of our initial tests on the growing of African violets under fluorescent lights, and at that time we indicated that the method had a great deal of promise. Since then we have been running additional experiments on fluorescent lighting, concerned not only with the best use of lights but also with flower bud formation and development. The results of the latter will be published later, but this issue contains interesting information on the effect of several types of lights and the handling of the plants.

Leaves of the variety Pink Delight were received through the courtesy of Ulery Greenhouses, Springfield, Ohio, in the fall of 1952 and several experiments were started.

Types of Lights

The leaves were rooted in sand in a basement (no sunlight) using the following variations of light:

1. Daylight fluorescent	300 foot-candles, 18 hours
2. Daylight fluorescent	600 foot-candles, 18 hours
3. Daylight fluorescent	1200 foot-candles, 18 hours
4. Daylight fluorescent	600 foot-candles, 24 hours
5. Soft white fluorescent	600 foot-candles, 18 hours
6. Green & white fluorescent	600 foot-candles, 18 hours
7. Mercury vapor	900 foot-candles, 18 hours

Plants in plot 1 were fairly satisfactory, but as we reported previously, better results were obtained with plants in plot 2, which received twice as much light intensity. When 1200 F.C. was supplied (plot 3), the leaves of the plants eventually were bleached so severely that the plants failed to develop and flowering was inhibited. When lighted for 24 hours at 600 F.C. (plot 4), the plants were too compact although flowering was profuse.

Soft white fluorescent light (plot 5) as well as the use of a combination of green fluorescent light with daylight fluorescents (plot 6) produced very satisfactory plants which were equal to those grown under daylight fluorescent at 600 F.C. for 18 hours.

Mercury vapor lamps (plot 7) give off a tremendous amount of heat, compared to fluorescent, and some trouble was encountered from this. Due to this heat, plus the need for special transformers, etc., the use of mercury vapor lamps does not appear to be practical and we have discontinued tests with them.

Lights versus Greenhouse

Leaves were stuck in sand in the greenhouse and also in the sand in the basement, using daylight fluorescent 600 F.C. for 18 hours. When the leaves were rooted and young plants were well developed, they were placed in 2½ inch pots and some plants from each of the two treatments were interchanged.

The plants propagated and grown in the greenhouse failed to flower by the time the test was concluded. Plants propagated under lights and grown in the greenhouse flowered and were quite satisfactory. For those commercial growers who have limited space available for fluorescent lights, the best possible use appears to be to propagate the leaves under the lights and then grow the plants in the greenhouse.

Plants propagated in the greenhouse and then grown under lights were somewhat superior to those just mentioned, probably because of the better environment under the lights. Plants propagated and grown under lights were, of course, superior to all.

THE END

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Above, The Firs, Lambley, England, home of W. C. Wicks.



Right, a view of one of the four pools.

THE NEW CHAPTER IN THE OLD CONTINENT

W. C. Wicks, Lambley, Notts., England

A brief introduction to the writer of this article on the foundation of the First British Branch of the African Violet Society of America, will, no doubt, help readers to follow the thread of the story easily.

I am a nurseryman, the son and grandson of a nurseryman; and with the exception of the years 1914-1918, when I was in His Majesty's Forces, practically my whole life has been spent in horticulture -- nearly half a century of close association with plants and flowers, and I now control a business founded by my father in Nottingham over seventy years ago. It continues to extend, and today covers some thirty acres -- with nearly two acres of greenhouses devoted to the culture of pot plants in quantity and in great variety. Growing chrysanthemums and tomatoes in thousands fill some of the houses at certain seasons, and the outdoor department handles the roses, shrubs and herbaceous plants which are produced in quantity.

With this background, I have some small reputation as a grower, and in 1951 a nurseryman friend brought me a dozen rather shabby looking African violets (Blue Boy), with the comment "Would you like to try these -- I cannot grow them, but you might." I said I would see what I could do with them, and by a strange coinci-

dence, Chas. H. Curtis M. V. H., who writes "Reminiscence and Observation," a full page weekly article in *Amateur Gardening*, mentioned Saintpaulias that same week. I wrote to him, asking where I could get the best book on this genus, and he gave me the address of Mr. Montague Free. (I must say here, that I have kept up a fairly regular correspondence with Mr. Curtis, who is one of the "old school," discovering that his uncle was employed with my father at Veitch's, Chelsea, way back in the 1870's, and this uncle later founded the famous botanical gardens at Penang, Singapore. Furthermore, Mr. Curtis is now a member of our Branch, and has been most helpful with his remarks on African violets in his weekly article.)

Mr. Free was good enough to reply to my letter asking for help, and I purchased his book, and took steps to join the African Violet Society of America. I read and re-read his book and the magazines I had received, and in the meantime, propagating from the stock I had been given, I was able to produce some five hundred good plants in 4¼" pans for 1952 sales. These were disposed of easily through our local sales channels, and the question then arose of obtaining stock of different varieties. This was not, and still is not easy, as an application to the Board

of Trade for an import license was refused. "No dollars for such purposes available," so I acquired further stock in this country and hoped that some day I might be able to procure some of the varieties I saw portrayed in the African Violet Magazine.

Now I have always been a helpful sort of individual -- in other words I have "cast my bread upon the waters," little thinking that it would be repaid with interest "after many days." Here follows the "tie up." Early in 1953, I had a request from a fellow member in the U. S. A. for certain information regarding African violets, which I willingly gave. I little thought when I wrote the first letter it was to be the forerunner of many others, and I should establish a firm pen friendship with this lady in California. No words of mine can convey the high esteem in which I hold this friend, whose letters have been such a source of encouragement and infinite pleasure, and without whose spontaneous help I should not have the many American varieties I possess today. A very special "thank you" then to H. P. T. in far off California, for her moral and material assistance in the cause of more and better African violets. Mention must also be made of Mrs. Joy Hutson, Luton (our president) who has been a staunch supporter in the formation of our Branch, and assisted me in many ways this past two years. There are others to whom I owe a debt of gratitude for their loyal support and encouragement, and without whose help this Branch might not have materialized. To them I offer my sincere thanks.

By this time I had worked up some thousands of plants and started to distribute to all parts of the country. I had the premonition when I commenced growing African violets that the finest method of insuring success was to sell well furnished plants in bud and bloom -- not to push the sale of leaves or plantlets, and my intuition has certainly been proved correct, by the increased demand and many repeat orders.

In addition to the increased output, 1953 was memorable as the year in which I started my efforts to found a Chapter of the African Violet Society of America over here. The British African Violet Society held their inaugural meeting in London, September, 1953, and although I attended this meeting and spoke at some length, I did not join the newly formed society, mainly because I felt that eventually affiliation with the American Society would help aspiring African violet growers to a greater extent, and it was the latter part of 1953 that I sent out letters appealing for the support of the project of affiliation with the African Violet Society of America -- to the two principal associations connected with the horticultural and floral industry in Great Britain, and to other individuals whose views on the merits of obtaining facilities for people to become members of the African Violet Society of America were deemed advisable. I had certain rebuffs from people I had thought would be favorably inclined, but eventually I had suf-



A house of mixed plants and hanging baskets



Above, a specimen plant of everyone's favorite -- Blue Boy.

Below, bench of Roseonnas in four inch pots.



ficient supporting evidence to make a request to the Board of Trade for sanction to affiliate with the American Society, and in due course -- after having crossed the T's and dotted the I's to their satisfaction, authority was granted to proceed.

The inaugural meeting of the First British Branch of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was held in Nottingham on April 21, 1954, when the Draft Constitution of Rules was submitted and approved. Over twenty members enrolled, and the following officials elected: President, Mrs. Joy Hutson; Vice President, Mr. E. Smith; Secretary, Mrs. E. A. Bitterling; Treasurer, Mr. G. J. Wicks; and a working committee of five, with power to co-opt if necessary. Business matters occupied the whole of this meeting, which at its close, forwarded a cable to the African Violet Convention, St. Louis, Missouri -- "The first British Branch of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. formed today. Joy Hutson, President." That was a proud moment for me! The happy culmination of much endeavor, which I feel sure has been worth all the time and trouble expended, by the growth of the Branch to its present membership of seventy-one full members, with, we hope, many more to follow. There are, of course, many loose ends still to be tied! We have members in all parts of the country who find themselves unable to attend our Branch meetings because of the distance they would have to travel, and it is my earnest hope that eventually these members will form new Branches with localized activities.

It is extremely difficult to convey to fellow members in the U. S. A. how few of our people are even cognizant of the existence of African violets, and certainly do not realize their potentialities as house plants. Our objective -- more and better violets -- will be achieved by perseverance

in our policy of introducing them to the public as pot plants in flower -- thus obviating the long wait, and often disappointment, when starting from a leaf or plantlet. I must stress the importance of the different climatic conditions which exist in this country as compared with the U. S. A., and our experience has proved the impracticability of winter blooming under normal house conditions, except from April to early November. This is the opposite to the general practice in the States, and is mainly due to our poor light intensity from November to March.

I endeavor to have my main batch of plants in saleable condition ready for April -- thereby insuring that the future owner gets the best growing conditions for the ensuing six months. I issue printed instructions for the care of African violets in the home, giving particulars of where to grow, how to water, when to feed, and treatment after flowering, and also another leaflet which gives simple instructions on propagation, and I find the purchasing public most appreciative for the guidance given. They learn the "know how," achieve success and become another satisfied customer -- the finest advertisement of all. So much so that sales have outstripped production, and I have recently completed the erection of two aluminum greenhouses, each seventy-five feet by fifteen feet, to meet the increased demand. These have been designed especially for African violets and have all the latest ideas incorporated -- in fact they are the "last word." Already some ten thousand youngsters are potted into three-inch pots, to be followed with nearly as many again. Constant fumigation is installed, and facilities for artificial irradiation are available. By next April we should be able to stage a really fine exhibit at The Royal Horticultural Society's main show at Chelsea, and thus further encourage the British people to grow this fascinating plant in their homes.

I have recently fitted up a room in my home for growing African violets entirely under under fluorescent lighting. The initial effort is one which will accommodate some two hundred plants and is in the nature of an experiment, in order that I can get data to pass on to others who might be interested in winter flowering under these conditions.

This is a brief "resume" of the period from when I obtained my first "Blue Boy" to the present day, but to enumerate fully all the detail and correspondence which went into the formation of the First British Branch would need a complete issue of the Magazine -- as it is, I fear that my enthusiasm has over-ruled my discretion, and made my story longer than I had intended. But then I have such a lot of enthusiasm where growing things are concerned!! Hence the foundation of the First Branch of the African Violet Society of America in Europe.

THE END

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HOUSE OF DIAMONDS**

RICHMOND, INDIANA

PERSONAL MISTAKES, EXPERIENCES AND DISCOVERIES

Kay Marks, Buffalo, N. Y.

In June, 1952, my husband built a special room in the basement for my African violets. Fluorescent lights were installed, water facilities added, heat from our hot-air furnace piped into the room, and all was ready. New plants were purchased, and I thought I was in business. Oh, woe is me!

If I had only known the heartaches that were in store for me, I might have been less optimistic. Would I have done it? Yes, a thousand times yes. The more trouble I have, the greater is the challenge to grow these beautiful Gesneriads.

We installed a three-tiered bench about eight feet long and two and one-half feet wide, with four 48" fluorescent fixtures and some 20" fixtures. We placed these twelve inches above the three-inch squatty pots.

I had very good success with propagation, as well as with new, large plants, which bloomed for some time after purchase.

The temperature stayed around sixty-five to seventy degrees except in the coldest weather, when an electric heater was used for about two hours morning and night.

While waiting for my plants to grow, I sold leaves by mail; during the first year I made my expenses, except for the monthly electric bill, which was approximately \$5.00 a month.

It soon became apparent that something was not just right. Plants would grow to a certain size; but when they should be blooming, they never did. The only blooms I had were during the summer months when two windows were left wide open all the time, day and night. During the second summer I lost a good many plants with root-rot.

I sold quite a lot of plants, which usually did beautifully for the purchaser. My mother and my aunt were given plants that bloomed beautifully.

The gas was checked, but there were no leaks. Various fertilizers were used, including manure and superphosphate, but still no blooms. Was it the soil mixture, I asked myself. I experimented with various soil mixtures and formulas, but to no avail. Meanwhile, my leaves and young plants were growing at a great rate in beds of peat moss, vermiculite and rock phosphate, suggested to me by my pen pal, Mrs. Kathryn Deibel of Mooresville, Indiana.

I ran up against more trouble my second winter. The room had been enlarged and we were not able to keep the temperature up to

sixty-five -- seventy degrees. Some mornings it was down to fifty degrees. I had never had trouble with humidity, it was usually fifty to sixty degrees. My plants stood the cold very well, but they did not bloom. The young plants in beds grew beautifully, for the fluorescent fixtures under them (for the plants below) kept them slightly warm. I also draped pieces of plastic over most of the lights and down over the shelves during cold weather, but it was really too cold for the larger plants, and they did not bloom. I got an electric heater with a thermostat, but found it too expensive to use. I had, of course, read everything I could get my hands on about African violets and other Gesneriads, and thought I was taking the best possible care of them.

It took me two years to learn not to over-water them. While I was away for a week last winter they were dry for a week, and a few budded. Some of the older plants were beyond help with root-rot, however, and were thrown out. It is amazing how healthy the leaves can look when the roots are almost entirely rotted away.

From an article in the African Violet Magazine, I learned that peat moss and sand with organic fertilizer added would be a completely balanced medium for violets, so I decided to try it. So far they are doing beautifully.

Then I read somewhere about having plants closer to the lights. I tried that, and it was the answer to my problem. I raised my plants up to within six inches of the lights, and now after only one month I have most of my plants blooming. I am thrilled to death that at last I have solved the problem.

In the process of my experiments with growing mediums, I mixed soil for some plants with well-rotted cow manure. These plants seem to grow very large before blooming. I think I will try sheep manure next. Since I have used the combination of peat moss and sand for rooting, I have some small plants in two inch pots blooming, and am I pleased!

Now I think I shall concentrate on just growing beautiful plants, full of blooms, and leave the experimenting to someone else for a while, although it was fun trying out new things.

I hope this helps to encourage those without the "green thumbs" to keep on trying, for the goal of beautiful plants in full bloom is truly worth the effort.

THE END



Display of African violets at Mrs. Squibb's home, as seen on a tour conducted by the African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh, October 25, 1950.

HOW TO KEEP AFRICAN VIOLETS BLOOMING

Mary Squibb, Mt. Lebanon, Penna.

Courtesy of the Farm and Garden

I have been growing African violets for the last ten years. My first three plants have grown to a collection of three hundred, and for those of you who have just received your first violet, or are having trouble keeping your plants in bloom, I offer the following suggestions:

If your plant came from a greenhouse, where the temperature and humidity are closely controlled, you may have a little trouble at first with your plant; for the home atmosphere is likely to be very different. Try very hard to keep the plant in the manner to which it has become accustomed.

Give it plenty of light, but avoid direct sunlight. A northeastern exposure is preferred.

Amid my pots of plants are vases and other containers, filled with water. This water evaporates and raises the humidity of the room. I have found this very successful.

Spray the leaves with warm water about every two weeks, but do it at night so that the sunlight won't scorch the leaves.

Keep the plants out of drafts. They like ventilation and moving air, but keep it gentle.

Set up a regular feeding program with a good plant food.

Always let the soil on top of the pot get dry before watering again. Water from the top, let it seep through the pot and collect in a saucer. After an hour drain the water from the saucer if the plant has not absorbed it all.

Keep a moderate heat -- about sixty-five to seventy degrees at night and seventy to seventy-two degrees during the day. This is most important.

But for constant bloom, constant feeding is required. I follow a rigid four-week rotation program with my own plants.

FIRST WEEK

Vitamin B tablets dissolved in water. Follow directions of the manufacturer. These vitamins are made especially for plants. Water it either from the top or the bottom.

SECOND WEEK

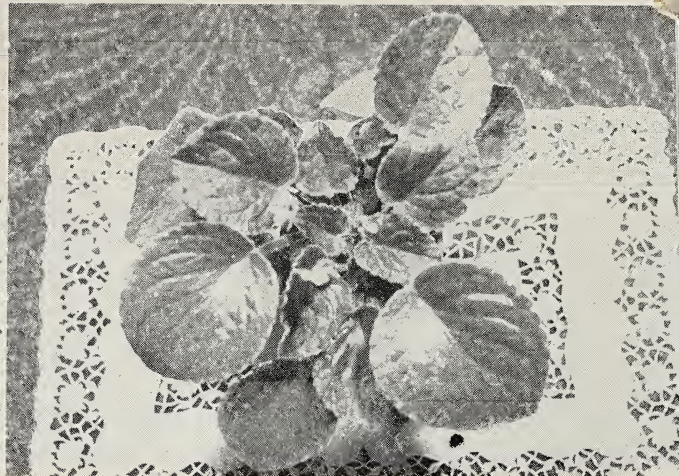
One-fourth teaspoon of superphosphate to a quart of lukewarm water. Water from the top, for superphosphate will not travel upward through the soil.

THIRD WEEK

Repeat the vitamin B program.



Beautiful Girl-leaf seedling of the S. grotei-Lacy Girl cross.



A different kind of leaf-seedling of the S. grotei-Lacy Girl cross.

FOURTH WEEK

Apply a complete liquid plant food, made by any of the leading manufacturers, and follow direction on the label. Water either from top or bottom. Then start the whole four-week process over again.

I think the vitamins develop a strong root system and I attribute my blooming success to this. I also use nothing but sterilized rain water on my plants.

If your blooms fall off prematurely, check for escaping gas. A whole batch of my violets got the blossom-dropsy at one time, and a check revealed a dangerous gas leak in the house foundation. Once corrected, the plants perked up and bloomed.

Hanging basket full of S. grotei and Lacy Girl seedlings.



Summer is the African violets' resting period, and when June rolls around, go easier on the water and cut out the feeding. The plants will be ready again for regular growth in September.

My soil mixture is one part dehydrated cow manure, two parts vermiculite (not the finest), three parts sterilized leaf mold and four parts of sterilized garden soil.

To each quart of this mixture I add one-half tablespoon of superphosphate. If you store the soil, always keep it a little moist.

I have rooted many plants from leaves, by placing pebbles in the bottom of a container and adding water. The soil mixture comes next, and on top of that a layer of vermiculite. The leaves are first placed in water, and when they develop roots, they are placed in a starting container. With the various nutrients thus arranged, they can feed on these nutrients as they grow. I also do my own hybridizing and raising plants from seed.

I have found that with care, my violets flourish in every window of my home except southern exposures. I also have hundreds growing under fluorescent lights in the basement.

THE END

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Many members of the organization have asked the Research Committee for more information on breeding or crossing African violets and on crosses between the various genera of the Gesneriaceae family. The research committee has established a project with Dr. Sheldon Reed, a noted human geneticist, to determine the various dominant and recessive characters in the genus *Saintpaulia*. Using this information and the principals set forth by Dr. Sheldon Reed in his previous article in the magazine, "Abide by Mendel," June, 1953, Vol. 6, No. 4, and the report of his message to the St. Louis Convention, 1954, appearing in this issue, those wishing to hybridize should then have a better chance of producing the product they desire.

As to cross genus hybrids Dr. Reed will explain the situation in future articles. At the present time the research committee can only state that some crosses between various genera of the Gesneriaceae have been successful. As far as we have definite proof we can not be sure of

any cross between *Saintpaulia* and any other genus, such as *Episcia* or *Gloxinia*. Chromosome numbers and types control the possibilities of such crosses. We are supplying the following information, covering the subject of Gesneriaceae chromosome situation as complete as possible. We are including in this discussion a report which appeared in Bailey, "Some Chromosome Counts in the Gesneriaceae," by Owen M. Rogers. The second section is a reprint from the December, 1951, *African Violet Magazine*, "A Note on the Cytology of *Saintpaulias*," by Dr. G. B. Wilson. The third section is a discussion of this report by Richard Stinson, Assistant Professor of Floriculture, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, which should help to clarify Dr. Wilson's report for the African Violet Society members.

Henry C. Peterson

Chairman Research Committee

SOME CHROMOSOME COUNTS IN THE GESNERIACEAE

Owen M. Rogers

Department of Floriculture, Cornell University
March 1954 Issue of Bailey, Pages 14-18

The current enthusiasm exhibited by both amateur and professional for *Saintpaulia* has naturally led to an increased interest in several other members of the Gesneriaceae. *Achimenes*, *Episcia*, *Sinningia* (commonly called *Gloxinia*) and others are now the subjects of frequent articles and advertising in horticultural magazines. With the present surge of interest in this family, taxonomic, breeding, and physiological problems have been exposed.

Concomitant with the taxonomic study of the cultivated species of the Gesneriaceae conducted at the Bailey Hortorium, a cytological study was initiated of which the first component was the determining of chromosome numbers of representatives of the family in the greenhouse collection at Cornell University. This is a report of the initial results of these chromosome determinations. In addition to the results of this study, chromosome counts recorded in the literature have been included. Herbarium specimens of the specific plants from which counts were made in this study are filed at the Bailey Hortorium.

All chromosome counts made during the present investigation were from somatic cells obtained from root-tip smears. The severed root-tips were pretreated two to four hours in a saturated aqueous solution of paradichlorobenzene. Killing and fixation were accomplished by an overnight treatment in a modified Carnoy's solution. The roots were then treated for ten minutes in a 50/50 solution of concentrated hydrochloric acid and ninety-five percent alcohol and returned

to Carnoy's solution. The tip portion was then smeared in a drop of aceto-orcein.

The following table combines the results of this study with the chromosome counts recorded in the literature. Species names are listed alphabetically under the subfamilies and tribes to which they belong. All chromosome counts have been converted, when necessary, to the $2n$ or somatic number. Wherever possible, the source of the count is given in the third column; S indicating a sporocyte determination and R signifying a count from root tip tissue. Counts determined in this present study are distinguished by an asterisk (*).

Few determinations of generic or even specific relationships within the Gesneriaceae, based on chromosome identification, can be made at this time. This situation is caused by a number of factors, the most limiting being that of chromosome size. The chromosomes of the members of the Gesneriaceae studied ranged in length from .95 microns in *Smithiantha* to 3.29 microns in *Columnea*, the smallest appearing as mere dots. Because of the small size, morphological differences among chromosomes were extremely difficult to ascertain. Individual chromosomes or chromosome pairs could be identified only in a few instances and then usually only in early metaphase. In many cases even the location of the centromere was not evident.

There are three main geographical centers of distribution of the Gesneriaceae: Central and

South America, Tropical Africa, and the Pacific region from China to Malaya, Borneo, and New Guinea. In addition there are representatives such as *Ramonda* and *Haberlea*, native in the mountains of Southern Europe. There is no evident correlation between chromosome counts or base numbers and geographical distribution. If the members of the family are arranged in taxonomic tribes, the only striking cytological correlation noted is that all the members of the *Columnae* investigated have the same base number ($x = 9$) although other correlations might become evident as more members of other tribes are investigated.

Polyploid series within genera are present in *Aeschynanthus*, *Nautilocalyx*, *Ramonda*, *Saintpaulia*, *Sinningia*, and *Streptocarpus*.

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Tischler, G. *Pflanzliche Chromosomen-Zahlen*. *Tabulae Biologicae* 4: 1-83 (1927).

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SPECIES	SOMATIC CHROMOSOME NO.	REFERENCE
Cyrtandroideae (Subfamily) Ramondieae (Tribe)		
<i>Ramonda Nathaliae</i>	36 S	Glisic 1924 (cited by Tischler 1927)
<i>Ramonda serbica</i>	72 S	"
<i>Saintpaulia grotei</i>	30	Cox and Roberts 1950
<i>Saintpaulia grotei</i>	30 R	Wilson 1951
<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i>	28 S	Sugiura 1936
(refuted by Wilson; see below)		
<i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i>	30 R	Wilson 1951
cv. 'Blue Boy'	30 S, R	"
cv. 'Blue Girl'	30 R	"
cv. 'White Lady'	30 S	"
cv. 'Plum'	30 S, R	"
cv. 'Double' (no other designation given)	30 R	"
cv. 'Pink Beauty'	30 R	"
cv. 'Blush'	30 S, R	"
cv. 'Blue Leatherneck'	30 S	"
cv. 'Storm King'	30 S	"
cv. 'Blue Amazon'	60 R	"
cv. 'Pink Amazon'	30 R	"
<i>Saintpaulia tongwensis</i>	30 R	"
Didymocarpeae (Tribe) Chirita lavandulacea		
reported as <i>Didymocarpus lavandulacea</i>	36 S	Sugiura 1940a
* <i>Chirita lavandulacea</i> † <i>Didymocarpus</i>	34 R	
tomentosus	54 S	Thathachar 1942
Streptocarpeae (Tribe) Streptocarpus ²		
caulescent species		
<i>S. caulescens</i>	30 S	Lawrence et al. 1939
<i>S. Holstii</i>	30 S	"
<i>S. Kirkii</i>	30 S	"
<i>S. saxorum</i>	30 R	"
acaulescent species		
<i>S. Comptonii</i>	32 S	Lawrence et al. 1939

<i>S. cyaneus</i>	32 R	"
<i>S. Dunii</i>	32 S	"
<i>S. Galpinii</i>	32 S	Lawrence et al. 1939
<i>S. Gardenii</i>	32 R	"
<i>S. gracilis</i>	32 S	"
<i>S. grandis</i>	32 R	"
<i>S. Haygarthii</i>	32 S	"
1. This count differs from that previously reported in the literature. The original material was not checked.		
2. Darlington and Janaki (1945) attribute counts for six additional species of <i>Streptocarpus</i> to Lawrence (Lawrence et al. 1939). These counts cannot be found in the original reference and have, therefore, not been included in this report.		
<i>S. insignis</i>	32	Lawrence unp. (cited by Darlington 1945)
<i>S. Michelmoriei</i>	32 S	Lawrence et al. 1939
<i>S. Polackii</i>	32	Lawrence unp. (cited by Darlington 1945)
<i>S. polyanthus</i>	32 S	Lawrence et al. 1939
<i>S. Rexii</i>	32 R	"
<i>S. Saundersii</i>	32 S	Sugiura 1940a
<i>S. X Veitchii</i>	32 S	Sugiura 1940
<i>S. Wendlandii</i>	32 S	Sugiura 1936; also Lawrence et al. 1939
<i>S. X kewensis X S. grandis</i>	32, 64	Lawrence unp. (cited by Darlington 1945)
Trichosporeae (Tribe)		
* <i>Aeschynanthus marmoratus</i>	30 R	
* <i>Aeschynanthus pulcher</i>	60 R	
Beslerieae (Tribe)		
<i>Monophyllaea Horsfieldii</i>	32 S	Oehlker 1922
Columnneae (Tribe)		
* <i>Alloplectus domingensis</i>	18 R	
* <i>Columnnea X Banksii</i>	18 R	
(hybrid of <i>C. Oerstediana</i> X <i>C. Schiedeana</i>)		
* <i>Columnnea gloriosa</i>	18 R	
* <i>Columnnea Schiedeana</i>	18 R	
* <i>Episcia cupreata</i>	18 R	
*cv. 'Silver Sheen'	18 R	
*cv. 'Splendens' (listed in the trade as <i>E. splendens</i>)	18 R	
*cv. 'Viridifolia' (listed in the trade as <i>E. viridifolia</i>)	18 R	
* <i>Episcia fulgida</i>	18 R	
* <i>Episcia lilacina</i>	18 R	
* <i>Episcia lilacina</i> (leaf variant listed as <i>E. chontalensis</i>)	18 R	
* <i>Episcia punctata</i> (listed as <i>Drymonia spectabilis</i> and <i>Isoloma grandiflora</i>)	18 R	
* <i>Hypocyrtia Nummularia</i>	18 R	
* <i>Nautilocalyx bullatus</i> (listed as <i>Episcia tessellata</i>)	18 R	
* <i>Nautilocalyx Lynchii</i>	36 R	
Gesnerioideae (Subfamily)		
Gloxinieae (Tribe)		
* <i>Gloxinia perennis</i>	26 R	
<i>Smithiantha zebrina</i> (reported as <i>Naegelia zebrina</i>)	24 S	Sugiura 1936
* <i>Smithiantha zebrina</i>	24 R	
* <i>Smithiantha cinnabarina</i> (listed in trade as <i>Naegelia cinnabarina</i>)		
Kohlerieae (Tribe)		
* <i>Kohleria spicata</i>	24 R	

*Kohleria 'Eriantha Hybrid' (listed in the trade as <i>Isoloma hirsutum</i>)	26 R	
*Kohleria 'Sciadotydaea Hybrid'	26 R	
Sinningieae (Tribe)		
Rechsteineria cardinalis (reported as <i>Corytholoma cardinalis</i>)	28 S	Sugiura 1936
Sinningia speciosa cv. 'Monarch'	56 S	Sugiura 1936
cv. 'Firefly'	56 S	"
*Sinningia speciosa (a cultivar)	26 R	
*Sinningia tubiflora (listed in trade as <i>Achimenes tubiflora</i>)	28 R	
THE END		

A NOTE ON THE CYTOLOGY OF SAINTPAULIA

G. B. Wilson²

During the late Fall and early Winter of 1948, a preliminary survey of the cytology of several varieties and species of Saintpaulia was made. Material for this study was provided by Evan Roberts of the Department of Horticulture, Michigan State College. The primary aim was to check the chromosome number. The only count which was found reported in the literature was that of Suigura (1936) who gives $2n = 28$ as the number for Saintpaulia ionantha.

Both root tip materials and flower buds were used for study but in no case was anything like a complete cytological investigation made. Most meiotic and premeiotic counts were made from aceto-carmin squash preparations, while most root tip counts were made from slides prepared according to the standard Feulgen squash method. There appears to be a strong periodicity in meiosis which makes it rather difficult to find suitable stages except at specific times. The most favorable time so far as the material then available was concerned, appeared to be about 3 p. m.

Table I gives a summary of all the information available to date. All counts given are based on at least two separate samples with not less than 10 cells counted from each sample. Figure 1 shows first telophase of meiosis from the variety Blush. Fifteen chromosomes can clearly be counted at each pole.

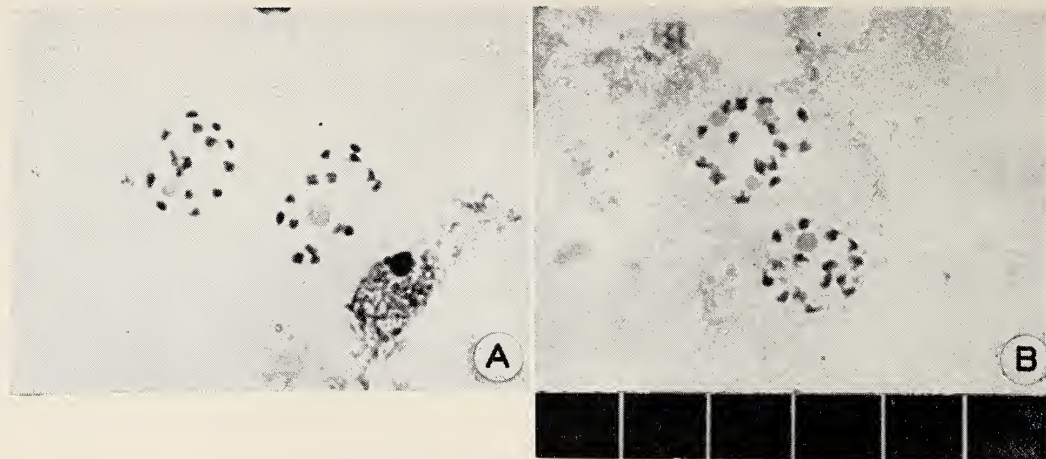
As noted in Table I the number appears to be 15 in all cases including *S. ionantha* so that it would appear possible that previous counts are in error. The small size of the chromosomes would render such an error very easy to make especially in sectioned or otherwise relatively unflattened material.

Of the six varieties for which meiotic material was available only one appears to be in any way abnormal. Storm King appears to be heterozygous for an inversion judging by the relatively high frequency of First Anaphase bridges. In most cases the expected accompanying fragment was not observed presumably owing to its small size but in a few well flattened cells it was clearly present.

The only polyploid detected was Blue Amazon which is a tetraploid as based on an x number of 15. The large size of the stomata in the leaves of this variety as opposed to the size in known diploids led to attempting the use of stomata size as a criterion of polyploidy. However, Pink Amazon proved to have equally large stomata and has since been shown to be diploid. Stomatal size in Saintpaulia, therefore, appears to be a poor indicator of chromosome number. So far as measurements have been made, pollen grain size is likely to prove a more reliable index.

1 — The author wishes to thank Mr. P. G. Coleman for the photomicrography.

2 — Dr. G. B. Wilson, Associate Professor of Botany at Michigan State College.



Description of Plate

Figures A and B — First Telophase of Meiosis in Saintpaulias, variety Blush. Note fifteen chromosomes at each pole. Each division of the scale represents ten microns.

TABLE I

MATERIAL	ROOT-TIP OR PRE-MEIOTIC COUNT	MEIOSIS	REMARKS
S. ionantha	30		
Blue Boy	30	15 II	Meiosis regular
Blue Girl	30		
White Lady		15 II*	Meiosis regular
Plum	30	15 II	Meiosis regular
Double	30		
Pink Beauty	30		
Blush	30	15 II	
Blue Leatherneck		15 II	
Storm King		15 II	Meiosis regular
Blue Amazon	60		22% first
Pink Amazon	30		Anaphase bridges.
S. grotei	30		20% bad pollen
S. tongwensis	30		

*Roman numeral II indicates normal pairing at meiosis.

THE END

CHEMICAL BREAKDOWN OF MANURES

Source	Moisture per cent	Nitrogen (N) per cent	Phosphoric Acid (P ₂ O ₅) per cent	Potash (K ₂ O) per cent	Value per ton*
Hen	76	1.48	0.96	0.47	\$4.29
Turkey	74	1.31	0.71	0.49	3.72
Cow	86	0.60	0.15	0.45	1.71
Horse	78	0.70	0.25	0.55	2.09
Sheep	68	0.95	0.35	1.00	3.05
Pig	87	0.50	0.35	0.40	1.67
*N at 10¢,	P ₂ O ₅ at 5¢,	K ₂ O at 4¢ per lb.			

From Pacific Rose Society News

Explanation: "A NOTE ON THE CYTOLOGY OF SAINTPAULIAS"

Richard F. Stinson, Dept. Floriculture, University of Connecticut

You may recall from your classes in botany that each cell has a definite number of chromosomes and that in ordinary cell division, such as that in the production of new cells in stems, roots and leaves, these chromosomes split to form duplicate sets. These sets move to opposite sides of the cell, a wall forms in between and the two "new" cells are made from the one "old" cell.

In sperm and egg production in flowers, this same procedure takes place with one more complicating step. After the first division, each resulting cell divides again; but in this case, there is no splitting of chromosomes. They just separate and each end of the old cell contains one-half of the usual number of chromosomes. A wall forms between and we have two cells, each with one-half the usual number of chromosomes. We then have a pollen grain with one-half the number of chromosomes needed to produce a new plant. An egg has one-half the number also. When fertilization takes place, the pollen and the egg unite to form one cell and since the pollen grain and egg cell each contributed one-half the needed number of chromosomes, the new cell has a complete set of chromosomes. All the growth that follows to produce roots, stems and leaves follows the usual pattern of cell division in which all the cells have the usual number of chromosomes.

The chromosomes counted in the root tip then are the number contained in most parts of the plant. It is most convenient to do the counting at a time when the cells are dividing because the chromosomes become separate and distinct at this time. At all other times, they are wrapped up like a wad of string. The cell division in roots, as well as stems and leaves, is the type in which the new cells have the same number of chromosomes as the old ones. This type of division has been called mitosis. Mitosis is the type of cell division that was studied by Dr. Wilson when he examined the root tips. In the second column of his table, the chromosome counts taken at this stage are presented.

Meiosis refers to the type of cell division often called "reduction division." It occurs only in reproductive cells and, as I have previously pointed out, the resulting cells each have half the number of chromosomes present in other parts of the plant. The chromosomes also separate from one another at a certain stage in this type of cell division and are readily distinguished at this time. Chromosomes are often counted in cells during this reduction division because only half

the usual number of chromosomes is present and they are, therefore, easier to count. Dr. Wilson's counts on these appear in the third column under Meiosis. You will notice that he got perfect agreement in every case where chromosomes were counted under the two different types of cell division. He found that where the usual type of cell division showed 30 chromosomes, when a count was made at reduction division (in which cells contain one-half the usual chromosome number) the count was 15.

The cytologists in studying cell division have named five stages in the process according to the movements of the chromosomes. "Telophase" refers to the next to the last phase in which the chromosomes are widely separated and shortened considerably from their usual thread-like appearance into barrel-shaped objects. The photomicrograph with the article shows this very clearly, the dark objects being the chromosomes. Under the staining method used, the cell walls are transparent so, of course, we cannot see them.

The word "haploid" refers to the basic number of different kinds of chromosomes in a cell. In Saintpaulias, the number of chromosomes in an ordinary cell is 30, but this number includes two complete sets of 15 kinds of chromosomes. The haploid number for most Saintpaulia species and varieties then is 15. This haploid number is sometimes referred to as "n" and sometimes as "x." So then, the chromosome count of a Saintpaulia might be given as $x = 15$ or $n = 15$. "Diploid" is another term that refers to twice the basic number (di means 2) and could be stated "Saintpaulia diploid number is 30" or "Saintpaulia $2n = 30$ " or Saintpaulia $2x = 30$.

In some relatively rare cases we may get doubling of chromosomes. This usually happens when a cell wall fails to form between the new groups of chromosomes at reduction division. As a result, the cell has twice as many chromosomes ($2n$) as it ordinarily would have (n). If this reproductive cell unites with another reproductive cell having $2n$ chromosomes, the resulting cell and, therefore, new plant has $4n$ chromosomes instead of the usual $2n$. In other words, this plant would have 4×15 or 60 chromosomes in each cell while the usual plant would have 2×15 or 30. This $4n$ plant is referred to as a "tetraploid" because it has 4 sets of the 15 kinds of chromosomes. Therefore, Dr. Wilson has shown that Blue Amazon is a tetraploid. It is interesting to see that although Pink Amazon has an appearance similar to that of Blue Amazon,



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At garden, seed, hardware, drug stores. Or direct, post-paid. Booklet "How to Raise African Violets" free. Rose Mfg. Co., 6914-35 Ogen Bldg., Beacon, N. Y.



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THE SECRET OF FINE AFRICAN VIOLETS

it is not a tetraploid but has the same number of chromosomes as the other Saintpaulia species and varieties.

If you used a tetraploid such as Blue Amazon and crossed it with one of the ordinary types of Saintpaulias, the sperm of Blue Amazon would contain 2n chromosomes while the egg of the other type would contain n chromosomes. The resulting plant would have 3n chromosomes and this plant would be known as a triploid and would have 3 times the basic number of chromosomes or 45 chromosomes. You might expect the characteristics of this plant to be mid-way between those of a tetraploid and those of an ordinary or diploid plant. You will be interested to know, however, that triploids are completely sterile.

THE END

VIOLETS AND FRIENDS

Neva Lofton, McCook, Nebraska

The African violet bug really hit me hard and fast. After a bout in the hospital I arrived home with Blue Girl. I was entranced with it and began calling friends who had plants for advice on how to care for my plant.

Soon friends were calling to tell me of new articles on African violets in current magazines, and I would hurry to the news stand to get a copy. Several friends brought magazines to me.

I wanted to purchase more plants but found so few advertised. Then when I purchased them I found that the dealers were many times not reliable.

A friend let me see our own African Violet Magazine with the very priceless information on care, fluorescent lights, propagation, and best of all it listed reliable dealers in violet plants and supplies. I wish I could have every violet magazine that has been published by our Society.

When my first young plants were potted it was a real thrill. Now I have about a thousand babies. Some have bloomed while others are coming along nicely, and I have had a few customers myself.

One of the nicest things about having African violets is the very lovely friends I make. I always take some African Violet Magazines and catalogs when I call on new violet people and they invariably find some material that they can use -- and I always learn something new from them.

Now my problem is more room. The house, porch, and basement are all overflowing with violets. I must have new plants all the time. Most of the National Convention prize winning varieties are a must!

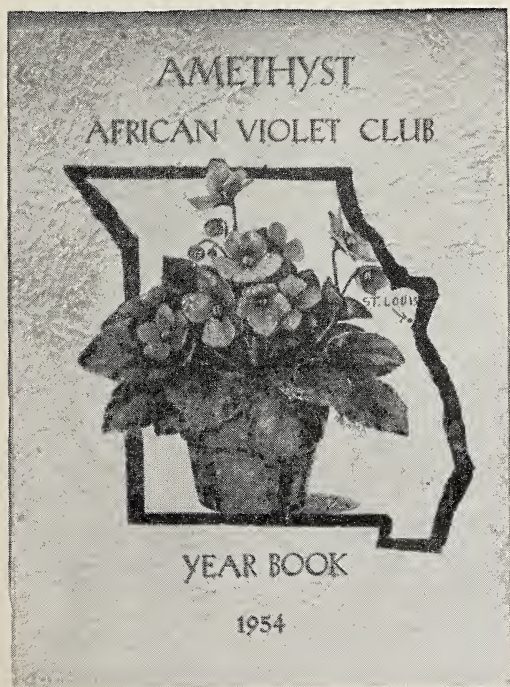
My beloved violets have given me pleasure and a peace of mind. Surely no one could doubt that their rare beauty is the handiwork of God.

THE END



Blue ribbon, African Violet Society of St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri.

White ribbon, Amethyst African Violet Clubs.



Prize Winning

Yearbooks

ST. LOUIS MEETING



Red ribbon, Webster Groves African Violet Society.



Mrs. Housen holds the Nyla Jean violet she developed and named after one of her granddaughters. (Mrs. Housen is a sister of Bee Wills -- Mrs. John Wills of Elgin, Illinois, beloved violet club leader.)

IF YOU COLLECT NEUROSES, DEVELOP A STEADY INTEREST IN AFRICAN VIOLETS

Courtesy of Milwaukee Sentinel

Got a NEUROSIS sneaking up on you?

Then get yourself a hobby and you'll be too busy to let anything get you down.

That's the advice of Mrs. E. J. Housen of Baraboo, who has plunged into two hobbies -- stamp collecting and growing African violets.

Along with these two hobbies she's made thousands of friends by meeting and corresponding with fellow stamp collectors and African violet growers. Her pen-friends have stretched from Russia to the Union of South Africa and to China.

"Although I have never seen most of these people, I feel as if I know each one," she said.

"And among all these people, I do not know of a single one that is neurotic. Getting interested in a hobby seems to keep people more interested in life."

Originated three varieties

The Housen home in Baraboo is practically overflowing with African violets -- one thousand, five hundred of them, including some one thousand, two hundred varieties. She has originated and registered three varieties of her own, "My Love," "Purple Shadows," and "Nyla Jean," the latter named after one of her granddaughters. She is now developing another new variety which she'll call the "Judy Lou," after her other granddaughter.

Surmounts troubles

Mrs. Housen is an outstanding example of a person who has used hobbies to surmount adversity.

"She took care of her father when he was an invalid, cared for her mother who was bedridden for ten years and came through a bout with cancer herself. Even today she is the medical profession's best customer," Mr. Housen explained.

"But her interest in her hobbies and in helping other people has kept her so busy she hasn't had time to feel sorry for herself."

Apple pie by mail

On the lighter side, Mrs. Housen spent two years trying to teach a housewife in Scotland by mail how to make an American-style apple pie.

"I sent the recipe and she'd report back her results. Then I'd suggest a change and she'd try it again.

"Finally, after she had turned out English, French and Scottish apple pies, she was able to report that she could bake a thoroughly American apple pie."

A real surprise came from her correspondence with a school teacher in the Union of South Africa.

"He was very cultured and wrote in the finest English. Then in one letter he enclosed a snap-

shot of himself in college track clothes. He had been a champion high jumper."

Visitors galore

Since the Housens live in the center of one of Wisconsin's most colorful vacation areas, many of the people who have heard about Mrs. Housen's collections stop at the Housen home when they pass through Baraboo. Visitors have come from nearly every state in the Union.

"I never know who will be on the porch when the doorbell rings in the summer, but I certainly look forward to meeting these people," she said.

Besides her hobbies, Mrs. Housen also has found time to take an active interest in social service work, especially among underprivileged children, and church affairs. She served as chapter chairman of the Sauk County American Red Cross from 1940 through 1946.

Activities curtailed

During the last few years, on doctor's orders, she has had to lay aside many of these activities. But she still attends conventions for stamp collectors and African violet growers and speaks to women's clubs on both hobbies.

"And at the rate she's developing these violets, I'll soon have to add another room to the house or move out myself," her husband says.

THE END

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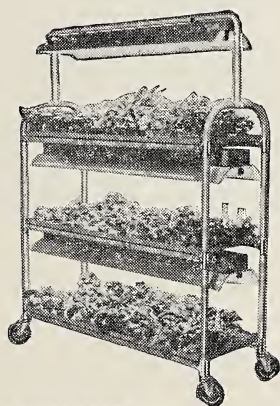
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Fluorescent Fixtures — Each \$11.50 extra,
less tubes

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Mrs. Roland Manlove won the National Gold Ribbon Award at the Richmond Show with Sailor's Delight, No. 32 and du Pont Blue.

SHOW *News and Views*

CINCINNATI SHOW

The Queen City African Violet Club of Cincinnati, Ohio, held their fifth annual competitive show in the Auditorium of the YWCA in Cincinnati on October 22, 23 and 24, 1954.

The stage at one end of the room was beautifully decorated by the J. A. Petersen & Son Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. Over one thousand African violets, Episcias and many other ornamental plants were used.

A white wrought iron bench and a tree branch of Japanese maple was a perfect setting for the lovely "Violet Garden Scene."

A rustic fence was used for the protection of the several hundred competitive plants and arrangements displayed on white cloth covered tables.

Some of the arrangements were "Ship Ahoy," "Early American," "Halloween," "Double or Nothing," "Wee Ones," "Novel Plantings," and natural containers.

The club president, Mrs. Archie Cooper, made a large painter's palette which held a variety of violets and proved to be one of the highlights of the show.

A table of many new varieties were attractively displayed by Mrs. John Landaker.

Mrs. Albert Lewis had the center of the auditorium for her educational table which was visited by many people.

The National Award winners were Mrs. Charles Haley, the Gold Ribbon; and Mrs. Arthur Radtke, the Purple Ribbon.

Judges were Mrs. Ralph Berst of Dayton, Ohio, Mrs. Lee Howard of Columbus, Ohio, and Mrs. Charles Stoehr of Greenwood, Indiana.

Mrs. Harry Moeller, past president of the club, was general show chairman.

GYPSY AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

"Gypsy Caravan" was the theme of the annual show held by the Gypsy African Violet Club on Saturday, April 10, 1954, at the Leland Hotel, Richmond, Indiana.

A beautiful display of over two hundred entries of old and new varieties were exhibited by members and non-members.

The lovely table of Gypsies held eighteen different varieties, with honors going to Mrs. John Taggart for the largest number of Gypsies.

The arrangements included a strawberry jar, a covered wagon, spinning wheel, bamboo cart, and other unusual containers.

Violets in all their glory were admired by guests from various cities in Indiana and western Ohio.

Mrs. Roland Manlove won the National Gold Ribbon Award with Sailor's Delight, No. 32, and du Pont Blue.

Mrs. Mabel Bode won the Purple Award with Carmen, America, and Kay's Quilted.

The show was judged by Mrs. Arthur Radtke of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mrs. Ralph Englebert of Richmond, Indiana.

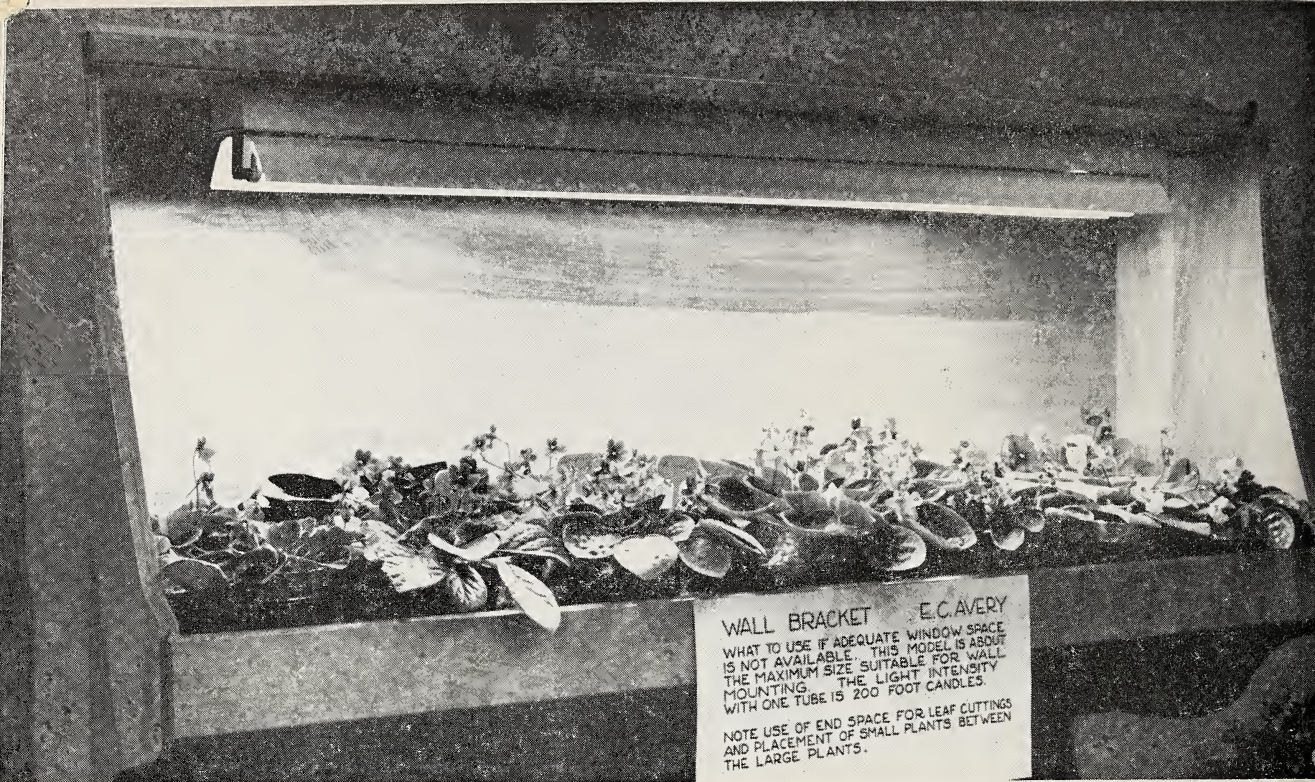
Miss Arnetta Bjornson at the Portland Show looks over the lovely display of plants on the tiered table.



Miss Elaine Botsford holding entry of the "Old Woman in the Shoe," entered by Mrs. H. L. Barchus of Ocean Park, Washington. This entry took first in the arrangement class at the Portland Chapter Show, Portland, Oregon. (Show write-up was in December Magazine.)

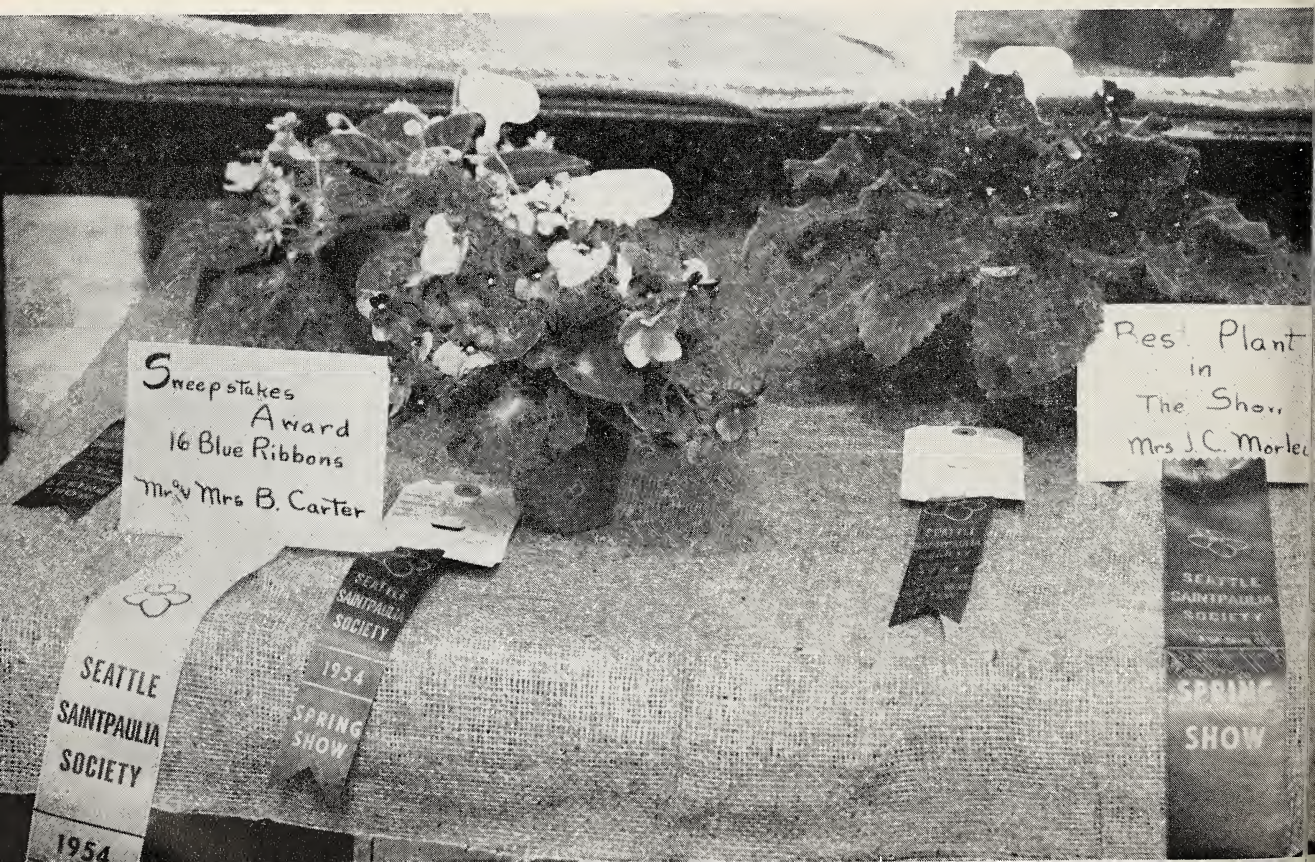
Mrs. Mae Spellman, who won sweepstakes at the Portland Show with a prize winning plant and the gold cup. Mrs. Spellman also took the prize for the largest plant in the show.





Above, "Many African Violets in a Small Space," the entry of Mr. E. C. Avery at the Seattle Show.

Below, Prize-winning plants at the Seattle Show, report of which was in the December issue of the Magazine.



DAVIDSON COUNTY SOCIETY OF AFRICAN VIOLET CLUBS



Tennessee State Fair Exhibit: Front row left to right, Mrs. T. M. Smoot, Mrs. K. B. Everly; second row, Miss Jean Boggs, Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Mrs. H. H. P'Pool; rear, Mrs. K. K. Metcalf and Mrs. Ed. Taylor.

NASHVILLE SHOW

For the second year the display booth of the Society at the Tennessee State Fair, held in Nashville in September, has won a blue ribbon. The display is a project of eight clubs combined to form the Davidson County Society of African Violet Clubs.

The exhibit was designed to tell the African violet story, from its discovery in Africa a little over a half century ago to the thousands of varieties now found thriving under the green thumbs of Northern Hemisphere fanciers.

The booth featured three sections, the first a replica of the native habitat of the African violet in Tanga, East Africa, where its discoverer, A. E. Walter R. Von Saint Paul-Illaire, of Germany, found the plant growing in cracks and crevices of the limestone rocks near the mouth of the Sigi River.

Another section of the display depicted the introduction of the plant to the United States by Armacost and Royston Nursery of Los Angeles, California, from seed they obtained from growers in Erfurt, Germany, and London. Plants of the first ten varieties landscaped the miniature front grounds of the greenhouse.

The central feature of the Fair attraction showed some of the many varieties of African violets in varying hues grown today. These plants were arranged on a setting of staggered shelves.

SHOW CALENDAR

AMSTERDAM NEW YORK-

The Mohawk Valley African Violet Society, Inc., will hold their third annual show on April 30 and May 1, 1955, at the Century Club, Amsterdam, New York.

LAWRENCE KANSAS-

The Lawrence African Violet Club, Lawrence, Kansas, will hold their show March 26 and 27, 1955, in the Lawrence Community Building, Lawrence, Kansas.

SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA-

The Sacramento Saintpaulia Society of Sacramento, California, will hold their fourth annual African violet show on April 30 and May 1, 1955.

MASON CITY IOWA-

The Mason City African Violet Club, Mason City, Iowa, will hold their fourth annual African violet exhibit Friday, April 29, 1955, at the YWCA.

BEATRICE NEBRASKA-

The Beatrice African Violet Society, Beatrice, Nebraska, will hold their third annual show April 2 and 3, 1955, in the City Auditorium, Beatrice, Nebraska.

BALTIMORE MARYLAND-

The Maryland African Violet Club, Baltimore, Maryland, will hold their fourth annual show on April 8 and 9, 1955, at the Edmondson Village Hall, 4580 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore.

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Forty-eight illustrated pages of unusual and hard-to-find supplies, equipment and accessories for African Violets, Gloxinias, Geraniums, Azaleas, all greenhouse and indoor plants. Everything from potting mixes and plant foods to large aluminum plant stands and fluorescent lighted plant carts. Largest selection any catalog specializing in supplies for indoor plants and greenhouse. Send now for your free copy.

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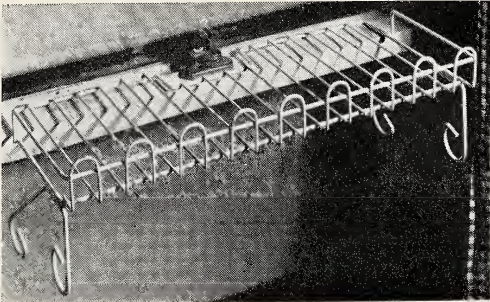
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DAVENPORT IOWA-

The Davenport African Violet Society, Davenport, Iowa, will hold their third annual show on Sunday afternoon, March 27, 1955, at the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery, 120 West Fifth Street, Davenport.

MOLINE ILLINOIS-

The Moline African Violet Society of Moline, Illinois, has chosen Sunday, April 3, 1955, as the date for their first annual show to be held in the new American Legion Building at 15th Street and 16th Avenue, Moline, Illinois.

SALT LAKE UTAH-

The African Violet Society of Utah, Chapter One, will hold their second annual show April 23 and 24, 1955, at the Pioneer Memorial Building in Salt Lake, Utah.

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN-

The Milwaukee African Violet Society, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will hold their fourth annual show at the Wauwatosa Recreational Building, 1155 North 73rd Street, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, on April 7 and 8, 1955.

SYRACUSE NEW YORK-

The African Violet Society of Syracuse, New York, will hold their third annual African violet show in the Museum of Fine Arts, South State and James Streets, on April 30 and May 1, 1955.

MANHATTAN KANSAS-

The Manhattan African Violet Society of Manhattan, Kansas, will hold its fourth annual show on March 20, 1955, at the Community Building in Manhattan, Kansas.

ST JOSEPH MISSOURI-

The Missouri Valley African Violet Society will hold its annual show in the Red Feather Room of the YWCA in St. Joseph, Missouri, on April 2 and 3, 1955. Doors will be opened from 1:30 p. m. to 9:00 p. m., and on Sunday from 1:00 p. m. to 8:00 p. m. A colorful spring setting will be the focal point of the show.

HIGH POINT NORTH CAROLINA-

The sixth annual African violet show will be held April 2 and 3, 1955, in High Point, North Carolina. Place -- H.P.T. and D. Railroad Office building.

HIGHLAND PARK ILLINOIS-

May 1, 1955, is the day selected by the North Shore African Violet Society in Highland Park, Illinois, to hold their annual violet show. This year's show will have the following classes: the regulation colored classifications, a sale booth, commercial displays, and many outstanding arrangements. An addition to the show this year will be an entire section devoted to table arrangements. All entries are welcomed.

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WRITE FOR LIST
KNUD COBERG

800 Rambler Ave.

Runnemede, N. J.

SOIL STERILIZATION

Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

There is much that could be said on the subject of soil sterilization. The question is to decide just what should be said to be of maximum value to a meeting of this kind.

In making my selection of things to include, I have been guided by the following assumptions:

1. That we have little or no interest in soil sterilization as applied on a field scale for agricultural crops, and that only the most superficial discussion of this phase will be sufficient.
2. That those here who are interested in soil sterilization on a commercial greenhouse scale are already familiar with the principles and practices, so that discussion of this phase can be quite general.
3. That we are principally interested in soil sterilization practices and materials for the home grower or hobby greenhouse owner, and that here the discussion should be quite detailed.
4. That there should be some discussion of the side effects, both good and bad, of the various methods of soil sterilization.

Turning first to field soil sterilization, we will give it only the superficial treatment indicated above. The first method used was, of course, the application of heat by burning off the vegetation-residue cover. As burning over of land has been practiced by many primitive peoples, and some not so primitive, since very early in the history of man's habitation of this planet, it might be said that soil sterilization on a broad scale has been used since ancient times. However, most peoples, races, tribes, groups or individuals who indulged in this wasteful practice lived and died without ever having the slightest glimmer of the idea of soil sterilization, so they can hardly be excused for their destruction of humus by saying they were incidentally sterilizing their soil. Actually, of course, the sterilizing action of a fire running over the ground is very slight, as the soil is not sufficiently heated to any worth-while depth. Still it may be that the practice of the lazy Indians in firing the Carolina and Virginia forests after the leaves had fallen each fall so that they could more easily gather the nuts which had fallen to the ground, (a practice which has given us the expression "Indian summer") may have helped to confine the root-knot nematode to its more tropical habitat and made it possible for several generations of our forefathers to farm the northern latitudes of our country without even becoming aware that such a thing as a nematode existed.

The use of heat, on an acreage basis, ends with the wasteful and inefficient burning over practices. In recent years, since the need for sterilization of soil for growth of agricultural crops has been realized, all advances have been in the development of volatile chemicals, and in the methods of applying them. The three chemicals that are today most widely used are dichloropropene, ethylene dibromide, and methyl bromide. If any of you remember your high school chemistry you may recognize these things as being halogenated hydrocarbons, formed by the interaction of the heavy gases called halogens with the gasoline-like petroleum fractions called hydrocarbons. But if you don't remember your high school chemistry, and don't recognize them, I don't think your African violet raising ability will be adversely affected to any serious extent.

These liquids are applied to the soil by various methods, such as injection of definite quantities at fixed intervals, plowing them under as the ground is plowed, and drilling in. Equipment for application of these chemicals is undergoing rapid development as the volume in which they are used increases, and that in use today ranges from complex applicators that are economical only for custom operators who work on a contract basis and treat thousands of acres per year, through kits that can be attached to farm tractors while plowing or drilling, down to a device which can be used with a hand-held plow pulled by one bony mule.

The root-knot nematode and wireworms are the soil pests whose control has been the goal of most field soil sterilization to date, but the range of pests controlled is constantly being increased.

We will turn now to the sterilization of soil on a commercial greenhouse scale. Here, methods based both on the application of heat and application of volatile chemicals are used.

Heat, when it is used, is practically always applied as steam. The simplest device, and also the most expensive, hence the least used, is the commercial autoclave. This is an insulated metal tank, generally cylindrical, equipped with steam coils, and fitted with a closure which can be tightly fastened. The soil is placed in the sterilizer, the steam turned on, and the soil allowed to remain for the desired length of time. Because of the expense of this kind of equipment, it is rarely if ever used commercially and finds its greatest application in conservatories, botanical gardens, research institutions, etc., where it is used for purifying pots and tools rather than soil.

The most widely used equipment for sterilizing potting soil before placing in greenhouse



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benches is the steam box. These boxes are of various sizes and shapes, depending on the quantity of soil handled and the steam generating equipment available. In its simplest form the steam box is not a box at all but a burlap bag into which a few shovelful of soil are placed and a steam hose inserted. In its next simplest form it is any old wooden packing case with a steam hose jammed down into the soil from the top. These simple forms, while very easy to construct, are difficult to keep operating (the steam hose will kick out, the escaping steam makes it impossible to do other work in the same room, etc.) so most houses move rather quickly to use of permanent or semi-permanent boxes. These also are of a wide variety of sizes and shapes. Some are built to hold only a bushel or so of soil, some up to several cubic yards; some are of wood, some of masonry; some are placed at ground level, some are elevated; some have removable ends and sides, some are open at one end. Regardless of the shape or construction, they all must have a steam distribution device at the bottom and be located close to a steam supply. In small boxes the steam distribution device is simply a pipe fitting firmly fastened through the side of the box and to which a steam hose is attached as needed. In larger boxes, the steam distribution must be more complex, such as a system of perforated metal pipes laid down as a grid, or a system of tiles which covers the bottom of the box. The source of steam is generally the boiler used for heating the greenhouse. Steam must be passed through the soil until the temperature reaches one hundred and eighty degrees Fahrenheit and the soil must be kept at this temperature for at least one-half hour.

Sterilization of soil in greenhouse benches is not so generally necessary in African violet houses as in other houses, because such a small proportion of the crop is actually grown in benched soil.

The wide use of originally sterile materials, such as washed sand, vermiculite, perlite, Sponge-Rok, etc., in potting benches also reduces the need for bench sterilization.

When the need for bench sterilization in an African violet greenhouse is felt, either to eliminate a known or suspected infection, or just as a matter of good general sanitation practice, it can be done by the methods ordinarily used for benches growing general horticultural crops.

The method most widely used is the application of steam, but the actual procedure varies considerably. In one method, hollow conductors, such as three or four inch agricultural tile, aluminum tubing, downspouting, used boiler tubes, etc. are placed in parallel lines on the bench bottom, and steam is furnished through proper connections to the greenhouse boiler. The steam conductors may be permanently installed or may be dug in for each sterilization. In another method, called the inverted pan method, a metal pan, some six to eight inches deep, as wide as the greenhouse bench, and of any convenient length,

up to ten or twelve feet, is inverted over the soil. Steam is introduced into the pan through a built-in connection, and thus reaches all the soil area under the pan. In still another method, the benches are tightly covered with a waterproof paper, rubberized cloth, plastic sheet, etc., firmly fastened in place, and kept from actual contact with the soil by placing a layer of pots down the middle of the bench or some similar elevating device. The steam is introduced under the cover and passes downward through the soil.

In general greenhouse use of these methods, the soil is first worked and moisture adjusted to proper condition for planting. Steaming is continued until the soil reaches a temperature of one hundred and eighty degrees Fahrenheit in the coolest part of the bed, and it is held at this temperature for at least half an hour.

The volatile chemicals are also widely used for greenhouse bench sterilization. Formaldehyde, ethylene dibromide, methyl bromide, and chlorpicrin are all used, generally by injecting fixed quantities at definite intervals along the length and breadth of the bed. These things must be allowed to remain in the soil for a considerable period and then must be aired out of the soil before it can be used, and the fumes in general, but particularly those of formaldehyde and chlorpicrin, are toxic to plants growing in the same house so extreme care must be taken to prevent plant damage.

This combination of circumstances tends to restrict the use of the volatile fumigants in greenhouses growing African violets.

Now we come to the subject with which I think we are most concerned, the sterilization of soil in small quantities for the home grower, or small hobby greenhouse owner.

I think it well, at this point, to consider in detail just what we mean by the term "sterilization." What are we trying to do when we go through a process of soil sterilization? Are we simply going through a pagan rite to appease some heathen god of evil in the soil? Are we trying to kill off all living organisms in the soil so that it is, in truth, sterile? Are we trying to endow the soil with some magic properties that nature is unwilling or unable to give it? No, we are not trying to do any of these things. We are simply trying to kill the living organisms in the soil which would later harm the plants if they were not removed.

We recognize the existence of three types of organisms we must remove, and the possible existence of two others. The first type of organism is the nematodes, tiny worm-like creatures which feed on or burrow into plant roots. The second type is the soil-living insects, such as symphilids, bulb mites, larva of various flying insects, springtails, etc. (The word "insects" is here used in its generalized form, as some of the creatures mentioned are not true insects.) The third type is the fungi, which attack plant roots, stems, and leaves to produce various rots. These



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first three types of organisms we know are capable of causing serious plant damage or loss if they are not removed. The other two types of organisms, the bacteria and the viruses, we know very little about. Maybe they don't exist for African violets.

These, then, are the things we want to kill in soil if they are present, so we must use materials or practices which test and experience have shown will kill these things. Generally we do not know whether these things are or are not present in the soil we are sterilizing, although, oddly enough, we generally have some kind of a tacit belief that they are not present because if we knew definitely that the soil was contaminated we would not use it at all.

For home sterilization of soil, there are again the two general methods, use of heat and use of volatile chemicals.

Let us follow the experience of a typical amateur home grower as she makes her first effort at soil sterilization.

The first method that she, in general, attempts to use is the boiling water drench. Probably she thinks of this first because she is

already quite familiar with a sterilization process involving use of hot water; it is called dish washing. The first attempt is generally to put a quart or two of soil in a sauce pan, cover it with water, and set it on the stove to cook. But once it has cooked, what to do with it then to get rid of all that extra water? Why, generally, just cook it some more, and then some more, and then some more, and so on for many hours, until the pan is stained beyond polishing clean, her nerves are completely frazzled, and the rest of the family has departed with pointed instructions to get rid of that stink if she wants to see them back. The second attempt consists of placing the soil in something through which water can be poured, such as an old apron draped around the inside of a peach basket set on the garage floor, heating a large panful of water on the stove, carrying it outside, and pouring it down through the soil. As she pours the steaming water, a sudden stab of pain bites her right foot; the water is dribbling off the pan and onto her shoe. It isn't enough to scald, but it is enough to give a momentary shock of panic. The water running through the soil persists in going only where it shouldn't, such as down the cellar window, into the dog's bed, or through Junior's sand box.

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About this time the neighbor's four-year-old Hopalong Cassidy comes tearing into the back door as he does six or eight times a day, and she almost faints as she thinks of what would have happened had Hopalong arrived sixty seconds before, when she was carrying a two-gallon kettle of boiling water through that very door. Only she doesn't dare faint now because she still has a kettle half full of boiling water in her hands, and the water running through the soil has exhausted all other possibilities and is now running only where she puts her feet, making both of them wet and hot when only one was before. About three days later, impatient because her soil is still a gooey mess, she removes it from the basket, spreads it out on several layers of newspaper, and lays it in the sun to dry. One of two things happens then. Somebody's Cocker decides it is the ideal opportunity for a mud bath, or a group of neighborhood children find a mud pie already mixed and just waiting to be thrown at each other, all too often just after their mothers have dressed them up for some special occasion.

With the hot water treatment method thus well explored, the good lady is ready to turn to some other method of sterilization.

The next method generally tried is baking the soil in the oven. And here she has much more success. Someone has told her all she has to do is place the soil in a dishpan, put a medium sized potato in the center of the soil, place the pan in the oven, and heat until the potato is baked. She does this and finds the potato cooked after an hour or two of heating. She finds, too, that the soil cools rather readily when removed from the oven and in a relatively short time is ready to use. She also finds that the soil feels excellent and appears to be in splendid condition for potting. But there is one thing she can't find; and that is her family. They have gone again, with even more pointed instructions to get that stink out of the house if she ever wants to see them any more.

So even though the oven baking method was in itself a success, she decides she will have to try something else. This time it is the pressure cooker. It doesn't hold very much and a good many cookerfuls must be run in order to have enough to pot out that pan of seedlings, but that is all right because she doesn't know how long it is necessary to heat the soil at the higher temperature in the cooker so she varies the time

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considerably and hopes that the mixture will be all right. Well, it does turn out all right and she gets the seedlings potted out. Trouble doesn't really start until the next night at supper when her husband and fourteen year old daughter resolutely refuse to eat the meal cooked in the same pressure cooker. Then the following day she hears six-year-old Junior telling his playmates what Pop said last night when he explained to a neighbor over the backyard fence why he hadn't had any supper. She reflects on where she had obtained the organic matter for the soil, sighs, and decides that maybe Pop was right. But she gets the soap and makes Junior wash those words out of his mouth, anyhow.

With the three easy methods of heat sterilization thus tested and found wanting she decides she will have to start using chemicals.

It is possible that at this point she is over-looking a good bet. Many homes have steam heaters and possibly they could be used as sources of steam for sterilization in a small steam box.



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Two large removable aluminum trays, for watering African Violets from below, hold many plants. Water all plants at one time with only one filling of trays. Stand is 30" long, 10" wide, 23" high. Weighs only about 6 pounds, easy to move from room to room and easy to turn for light and air. Sturdy metal construction with baked enamel finish. Choice of "Wrought Iron Black" finish or Snow White. Special offer \$6.95 postpaid. Mail your order.

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Mundelein, Illinois

Second Annual African Violet Show, Highland Park, Illinois, May 1st, 1955.

FOR INFORMATION WRITE

MRS. FRANK STRAIGHT

434 Briarwood

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

I know of no application of this kind, but it would not appear to be impossible to hitch a steam box to a home boiler. It may be that home boilers won't generate steam fast enough, or that the problem of tapping into the boiler, or of piping the steam where it would not mess up the rest of the house as it escapes from the box would make the idea entirely impractical. I pass the idea out only for whatever thought stimulation it might provoke.

Although we treated the experience of our average home grower rather lightly as she tried the various methods of heat sterilization, the general idea of heat sterilization should not be dismissed so lightly. If a way can be found to overcome the difficulties of handling hot water and of drying out the soil, the hot water drench can be used. Its weaknesses are (1) the danger that some portion of the soil mass may not be heated high enough to give kill of undesired organisms, and (2) the leaching out of desirable fertilizer constituents. Likewise, if a way can be found to get rid of the odor problem, the oven baking method is satisfactory. If carefully done; that is, if the soil is always heated until the potato in the center is baked, the soil will be adequately sterilized. With the pressure cooker also, if you care to buy a separate cooker for the purpose, or can overcome the squeamishness of your family, it can be successfully used. I would hazard a guess that more soil is sterilized by oven baking or pressure cooking than by all other methods of treatment put together.

We will now consider the volatile fumigants. There are really only three to consider; ethylene dibromide, methyl bromide, and chlorpicrin. Before going any further, and particularly before giving you the common names under which they are sold, I want to be sure we understand that all these things are poisons, and are perfectly capable of killing you and your family just as well as the bugs in your soil. However, if the proper precautions and safeguards are employed, they can be used with entire safety and with no danger whatsoever to you, your family, or your pets. But these safeguards must be used, and to attempt to short-cut or by-pass them is to invite disaster. Always read carefully the directions with each package.

For purposes of this discussion, ethylene dibromide is sold as Soilfume Caps, methyl bromide as MC-2, and chlorpicrin as Larvacide. These chemicals are all sold under various other names by a number of chemical manufacturers, for a variety of other purposes, such as granary and flour mill fumigation, rat and rodent extermination, field soil sterilization, and many others. They are sold by the tank car, by the 55-gallon drum, by the ten-gallon can, and by the gallon. In my following discussion I am not referring to them when derived from any bulk source; I am referring only to ethylene dibromide in one-half cc capsules called Soilfume Caps, methyl bromide in pound cans under the name Dowfume MC-2, and chlorpicrin in pound bottles under the name Larvacide. Trying to give in-

structions for handling, storing, and using these materials from bulk quantities for sterilization of small quantities of soil would be a hopelessly complex job, and one I don't care to attempt. If you have access to these materials in bulk, as may well be the case when you live in regions where they are used, you should also have access to local instruction and guidance in their use. Use the materials and local guidance as you will, but remember that a few teaspoonsful of methyl bromide spilled in your enclosed African violet porch is a far different thing from the same quantity of methyl bromide spilled on the ground fifty yards away where it is being loaded into a field applicator.

It would be possible to go into lengthy comparisons of the relative values of these things as soil sterilants, but to do so would probably be more confusing than informative. It would appear better to give dosages and treatment practices that make them all comparably effective.

Before starting to sterilize the soil, it must be properly mixed. Any organic matter that is going to be added should be added. Inorganic materials, such as vermiculite, Sponge-Rok, perlite, ground limestone, superphosphate, and charcoal can be left out until later, if desired. The moisture of the soil should also be adjusted to just about what you would want it to be if you were using it immediately to pot plants. The old rule for measuring both soil texture and soil moisture can be applied here: Squeeze some of the soil into a ball in your hand; if the squeezed soil almost retains its shape when the pressure is released, the moisture is about right.

Temperature of the soil and surrounding air is very important also; for best results, the temperature should be above 60° F. Between 50 and 60° F. the dosages should be doubled. Sterilization should not be attempted at temperatures below 50° F., although chlorpicrin is claimed to be effective at 45° F. These temperature requirements limit the periods during which the volatile fumigants can be used, as the temperature is below 50° in many states for a considerable fraction of each year.

A can with a tight cover is a necessity. The cover need not be thoroughly gas tight, but it must be fairly close fitting. Lard cans and covered garbage pails are satisfactory. Open end drums generally have lids that fasten on with a band arrangement, this arrangement need not be used; the weight of the lid alone will be sufficient.

Let's talk about Soilfume Caps first. The manufacturers of Soilfume Caps will not go farther than to claim that they are effective against nematodes and wireworms, but wide usage of ethylene dibromide for field sterilization and in greenhouses has shown it to be generally effective against fungi and insects as well. Each capsule contains one-half cc of ethylene dibromide enclosed in a gelatine covering. One capsule is enough for one cubic foot of soil. Five gallons of soil is less than one cubic foot,

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so one Cap should be used. Ten gallons of soil is more than one cubic foot, so two Caps should be used. If you want to be doubly sure you have used enough, and can wait a little longer for the excess to air out, put an extra capsule in each container, making it two capsules for five gallons, and three capsules for ten gallons. Likewise, a 55-gallon drum, the standard metal barrel of commerce holds about seven and one-half cubic feet of soil, so at least eight capsules should be used, and the quantity could well be raised to ten. A bushel is just slightly over one cubic foot, two capsules should be sufficient for a measured bushel of soil.

The nice part about using Soilfume Caps is the ease with which they can be handled. They can be picked up with the fingers and placed in the soil as you wish. But this very ease of handling makes Soilfume Caps rather tricky things to use. No sterilizing effect whatever is accomplished by mere presence of the capsule in the soil. Sterilizing effect starts only when the gelatine wall of the capsule is dissolved and the ethylene bromide diffuses through the soil, and sometimes the capsules are coy about dissolving. Excess water must generally be applied in the vicinity of the capsule, and it is best to use warm water. The exact placing of the capsules in the soil will depend on the volume of the container. If two capsules are used in a five-gallon can, the can should be filled one-third full, a Cap pushed below the soil surface, an ounce or two of water poured around it, another third of soil placed in the can, the second Cap inserted and watered in, and the remaining soil filled in. If ten Caps are being used in a 55-gallon drum, the drum should be filled one-quarter full, three Caps inserted in a triangular pattern and watered in, a quarter more of the soil added, four Caps inserted and watered in, another quarter of the soil added, the final three Caps inserted and watered in, and the remainder of the soil added. Whatever the size container, the soil surface should be leveled, and sufficient water sprinkled on to wet thoroughly the top half inch of the soil. This serves as a seal to hold the fumes in the soil. A layer of wet newspaper, plastic, or some other non-porous material should also be placed over the soil. The lid should then be placed on the container.

Recommendations as to how long the soil should be left in the sterilizing container vary widely. To be safe, a period of seven to ten days should be allowed.

Before use the soil must be spread out and aired until the fumigant has escaped. It should be spread out on a surface from which it will not acquire reinfestation. Concrete garage floors, a tarpaulin, or sheets of plastic are satisfactory. Don't spread it out indoors as there might be enough fumigant to cause illness or discomfort, and don't fasten your dog in the garage where you have just spread out a can of soil. The soil should be raked over occasionally until all odor has left it. While handling the soil, keep a

PROGRAM

"Pittsburgh Swings the Gates Wide Open"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

6:30 P. M.
To
9:30 P. M. Registration Main Hall on 17th Floor

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

8:00 A. M.
To
6:00 P. M. Registration Main Hall on 17th Floor

1:00 P. M.
To
4:30 P. M. Tour of Pittsburgh. Tea at The Pittsburgh Garden Center

6:30 P. M. Dinner Meeting Ball Room on 17th Floor

Convention Convenes

H. G. Harvey, 2nd Vice President, Presiding

Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Stanley Favinger

Invocation, Mrs. Allen Haslett, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Welcome to Pittsburgh, Frank Curto, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Presentation of National President

Floyd L. Johnson, Canandaigua, New York

Introduction of Convention Co-Chairmen

Mrs. William Douglas, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Mrs. Ross Harness, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Introduction of Program Chairman

Mrs. H. W. Martin, Omaha, Nebraska

"THE HEART OF A GARDEN," John R. Whiting, Publisher Flower Grower,
New York, New York

9:30 P. M.
To
11:00 P. M. Exhibits Open (Registered, Convention Members only)
Amateur Show Urban Room
Commercial Exhibit Urban Room
Commercial Sales Room Fort Duquesne Room

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 A. M.	Registration	Main Hall on 17th Floor
To		
6:00 P. M.		
9:00 A. M.	Exhibits Open (Registered, Convention Members only)	
To	Amateur Show	Urban Room
11:00 A. M.	Commercial Exhibit	Urban Room
	Commercial Sales Room	Fort Duquesne Room
9:30 A. M.	Morning Meeting	Ball Room
	Mrs. Raymond F. Crotty, Huntington, W. Virginia, Presiding	
	Invocation, Mrs. Roy A. Spence, Washington, Pennsylvania	
	"SEEDLINGS AND MUTATIONS," R. G. Anderson, Tonkadale Nurseries, Hopkins, Minnesota	
	"JUDGING SCHOOL RULES," Ruth G. Carey, Fountain City, Tennessee	
	"REGISTRATION PRO AND CON," Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, N. J., and Phil Libby, Racine, Wisconsin	
1:30 P. M.	Luncheon Meeting	Ball Room
	Mrs. Edward P. Jones, Beaumont, Texas, Presiding	
	Invocation, Mrs. James Affleck, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	
	WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?" a panel discussion	
	Marie Dannemiller, Barberton, Ohio	
	Grace Eyerdom, Medina, Ohio	
	John C. Coryell, Golden, Colorado	
	Henry C. Peterson, Cincinnati, Ohio	
	"ADVANCE IN AFRICAN VIOLET BREEDING," Dr. Sheldon C. Reed, St. Paul, Minnesota	
4:00 P. M.	Exhibits Open (Registered, Convention Members only)	
To	Amateur Show	Urban Room
6:00 P. M.	Commercial Exhibit	Urban Room
	Commercial Sales Room	Fort Duquesne Room
6:30 P. M.	Banquet Meeting	Ball Room
	Floyd L. Johnson, President, Presiding	
	Invocation, Mrs. J. W. McGlathery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	
	"WHAT AFRICAN VIOLETS LIKE ABOUT PEOPLE," Gretchen Harshbarger, Household Magazine, North Liberty, Iowa	
	African Violet Society Awards for 1954	
	Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Chairman of Awards Committee, Maysville, Kentucky	
	Introduction of Life Members. (All Life Members are requested to sit at the reserved table in front of the speakers' table.)	

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

9:30 A. M.	Morning Meeting	Ball Room
	Mrs. M. Merle Hardy, St. Genevieve, Quebec, Canada, Presiding	
	Invocation, Mrs. Charles H. Deer, McKeesport, Pennsylvania	
	"WHY IS MY PAINTED GIRL A RED LADY NOW?" Dr. H. L. Mills, Marshall College, Huntington, W. Virginia	
	"LET US ARRANGE OUR SAINTPAULIAS," Emily Steubing, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	
1:30 P. M.	Afternoon Meeting	Ball Room
	Floyd L. Johnson, President, Presiding	
	Invocation, Mrs. Edward Beavers, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	
	Annual Business Meeting	

sharp look-out for the Caps. If you find them unbroken, it tells you haven't done anything yet and it is time to start over, using more water around each capsule this time.

Methyl bromide, as Dowfume MC-2, is considerably more difficult to handle than Soilfume Caps. Methyl bromide itself is extremely poisonous and I have said on numerous occasions at these Conventions that it was too dangerous for amateurs to handle. In the MC-2 formulation, however, it has been mixed with chlorpicrin, tear gas, as a warning agent, so if the concentration of methyl bromide in the atmosphere becomes high enough to be dangerous to breathe, the chlorpicrin will cause uncomfortable tear formation. Methyl bromide is a gas at ordinary temperatures, so it is sold in pressure cans. When these are punctured, the entire contents of the can escape. This means that the smallest quantity that can be used is a full pound. This is enough for a cubic yard of soil, or about three 55-gallon drumsful. Seldom does the home grower have this quantity of soil to treat. One way to get around this is to introduce a pound of the MC-2 into one 55-gallon drum, although it is three times too much, and to lengthen the aeration period to allow the excess to escape.

The MC-2 is conveniently applied to the soil through a piece of saran tubing. The open end of the tubing is lowered almost to the bottom of the drum and held there while the soil is shoveled in, the tube extending up through the center of the filled drum. The other end of the tubing is attached to a Jiffy Applicator, whose function it is to puncture a hole in the can and allow the MC-2 to release itself into the saran tubing. As the MC-2 flows out, the tube is slowly pulled up from the bottom of the drum so that the gas is discharged from bottom to top of the drum.

A water seal and an impervious seal of some other material should be placed over the soil, as with Soilfume Caps, and the container cover affixed. With this heavy concentration of fumigant, an exposure period of two to four days is ample.

The methyl bromide escapes quite rapidly when the soil is spread out for airing, the chlorpicrin more slowly. The soil is safe for potting when you can handle it without crying.

Care should be exercised while the soil is held under treatment and while it is airing out that the escaping fumes can not collect in non-ventilated corners or cellars. To be perfectly safe, conduct all operations concerning methyl bromide at a distance of fifty feet from any dwelling.

The third and last volatile fumigant is chlorpicrin, better known as tear gas, and sold under the trade name of Larvacide. As its name implies, it is a tear gas, and has been used as such for many years. No doubt everyone here can recall reading of at least one occasion when policemen used tear gas to rout out some stubborn bandit. Because tear gas has such a quick and

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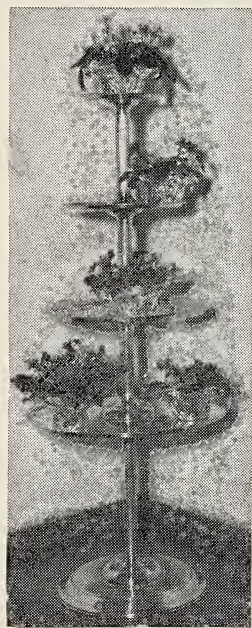
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waterproof and hold
up to 1/2 inch of water
. . . Plants can be
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powerful reaction on the eyes, it is difficult to use, but this very property also makes it very safe to use. No person can willingly stay in a concentration of tear gas vapor long enough to hurt him otherwise.

Larvacide comes in pound bottles which are graduated in fluid ounces and cubic centimeters, so that quantities to be used can be easily estimated. The recommended rate of application is one pound per cubic yard. This is three fluid ounces per 55-gallon drum, one-half fluid ounce per 10-gallon can, one-fourth fluid ounce per 5-gallon can. Measuring the three ounces per drum is not difficult. The soil is placed in the can in vertical quarters, and an ounce is poured in on top of each of the first three quarters, full ounces being read rather easily from the bottle. Measuring half an ounce from the bottle for a 10-gallon can is not so easy, and estimating one-fourth ounce is still more difficult. Some people find it advantageous to place pieces of Scotch Tape or adhesive tape on the bottle to assist in dividing ounces. The brave people who would like to measure the Larvacide in spoons might find it useful to remember that a tablespoonful is one-half fluid ounce, and a teaspoonful is one-sixth fluid ounce. But I don't recommend trying to measure Larvacide with a spoon.

If you work fast and start shoveling the next quarter of soil in just as soon as the Larvacide is poured on the first quarter, there will be very little fume and no discomfort. In fact, it is possible to fill a barrel with soil, pour in the three one ounce portions of Larvacide, and place the water and impervious seal in place without even having your eyes start to water. You are more likely to do a little crying, however, and you must be prepared to do so. Larvacide can be applied to soil in 5 or 10-gallon quantities by application of small amounts as the can is filled, but measurement of these small quantities is very difficult. A better way is to fill the can completely, and then open one or more vertical holes in the soil by forcing a rake handle or similar round object down to the bottom of the can and pouring the Larvacide down the holes, being sure it does not all fall to the bottom but hits the soil all the way down.

Sterilization with Larvacide is complete in twenty-four hours; after this the soil can be spread out and aired. When you can handle the soil without crying, it is safe to use in potting.

Some may wonder why I have said nothing about formaldehyde or carbon disulfide, both of which are sometimes used for soil fumigation. Formaldehyde does a good job against fungi and insects, but its record against nematodes is poor. It doesn't penetrate root galls and kill nematodes therein. Carbon disulfide is so highly inflammable that its use presents a continual fire hazard. The other fumigants do a better job without this added danger.

I should also point out that these volatile fumigants are for soil fumigation; to kill un-

wanted organisms in soil before plants are put into it. They are not fumigants to be released in a greenhouse to kill insects infecting plant foliage. It should not be necessary to point this distinction out, but it is. I have received several complaints because the instruction sheet did not tell how much Larvacide to use in a greenhouse to kill cyclamen mites. Larvacide released in a greenhouse would kill all the cyclamen mites in it; they would starve to death because the plants would all be killed.

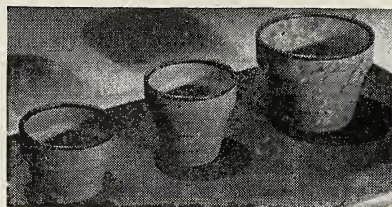
Some people may also wonder why I have not mentioned sodium selenate, lindane, or chlordane. I eliminate these because they are not soil sterilants. None of these things have any measured killing power against nematodes or fungi, and without such power they should not be called soil sterilants. Lindane and chlordane will kill most soil insects that give us trouble, and selenate will kill most foliage insects. They are thus extremely valuable to us, but they are valuable as soil or systemic insecticides, not as soil sterilants.

Any discussion of soil sterilization should also point out the fact that soil sterilization by any process increases the soil fertility far above what it would have been without the sterilization treatment. The cause for this is not known but it always occurs. It can be readily seen by observing plant growth in an area where a heavy fire has occurred. Another effect of sterilization is generally an improved quality or tilth of the soil.

An undesirable effect of sterilization is that it eliminates unknown soil habitants which continually war on each other and thus keep each other fairly well under control. If one of these offending creatures is then introduced into the soil, as by being in the roots of a newly purchased plant, it can multiply rapidly unhindered by its natural enemies. A sterilized soil is thus not only a soil that is free from infection; it is a soil that is ready for infection.

But despite this one adverse effect, I am convinced that soil sterilization pays off. I am convinced of this largely from the negative testimony that I continually receive from all over the country. In the last five years I have received hundreds of letters telling of African violet troubles. These are generally weepy things; telling of blasted hopes and thwarted ambitions. They ordinarily run three or four pages, closely written. And they follow a pretty general pattern. She started to raise plants five, eight, ten, fifteen years ago. She over-ran her windowsills two, three, five years ago. She started to sell a few plants, and enjoyed the companionship and the feeling of authority and prestige that came with having people seek her out to buy plants and to ask her opinion on how to raise them. She put the money she got from the sale of plants into new varieties, then into enclosing the porch so she could raise more plants. Last year she had enough money to attend the Con-

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FRIENDLY GARDENS

NEW BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

vention and she got such a kick out of seeing Floyd Johnson walk by, arguing with Alma Wright. She never had any trouble until now. But now everything is wrong at once. The plants are growing backward, the leaves are drooping limply over the pots or are rotting before they fall. Suckers are appearing all over. The plants have quit blooming or won't hold their blossoms. Leaves won't root, or the plantlets rot off before they can be transplanted. Bugs, worms, and flies are crawling over the pots or swarming around the plants. Two customers have brought plants back that they purchased from her, blaming her because all their plants are going the same way.

They are really sad tales and there is a lot of human misery back of each one. I try to treat each one for what it really is; an earnest appeal for help from a person in serious trouble. But there isn't too much I can do; it is too late for the preventive measures that would have made

such a condition impossible. For down near the bottom of the last page, after the recital of all the woes, fears, and difficulties, is always the statement that she had never sterilized her soil. Of the hundreds of letters of this kind I have received, not over a half dozen have ever said that they sterilized their soil, and in some of these cases I think the statement was made only because they feared to admit that they hadn't sterilized their soil.

Certainly, if these tales of woe come so overwhelmingly from the people who haven't sterilized their soil, it is an indication that the people who do sterilize their soil ordinarily avoid these troubles.

It boils down to this: By and large, the people who do sterilize their soil don't have serious African violet troubles; those who don't sterilize their soil sooner or later do have troubles.

STERILIZATION CHART

Name of Material Active ingredient	Soilfume Caps Ethylene dibromide	Dowfume MC-2 Methyl bromide	Larvacide Chlorpicrin
Amount to Use for			
5 gal. of soil	2 Caps		¼ fluid oz.
1 bushel of soil	3 Caps		½ fluid oz.
10 gals. of soil	3 Caps		½ fluid oz.
55 gals. of soil	10 Caps	1 pound	3 fluid oz.
1 cubic yard of soil	30 Caps	1 pound	1 pound
Allow to stand for	7-10 days	2-4 days	24 hours
Air out	2-4 days or until fumi- gant odor has vanished.	Until soil can be handled without dis- comfort to eyes.	Until soil can be handled without dis- comfort to eyes.

NOTES

1. Methyl bromide is also put up in one-pound cans by other manufacturers than Dow.
2. Ethylene dibromide is put up in capsules by other manufacturers. Above directions are for capsules containing ½ cc of ethylene dibromide.
3. The numbers of Soilfume Caps indicated are above actual requirements for the smaller volumes, so the numbers are not commensurate on a volume basis.
4. Be sure to apply a water seal to the soil, cover with an impervious cover, and place a tight fitting lid on the container.
5. Quantities indicated are for temperature of 60° F. or above. Double the dosage if temperature is between 50° F. and 60° F. Don't try to sterilize soil if temperature is below 50° F.
6. In very poor "airing" conditions, times indicated may not be sufficient for complete removal. Be sure all fumes have escaped before soil is used for potting. But don't be confused by the altered odor of sterilized soil.
7. Lindane or chlordane can well be added to sterilized soil to prevent reinfection from plants potted into it.

AFRICAN VIOLETS
TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY VARIETIES
Leaves, Cuttings, Small Plants mailed
3¢ Stamp for descriptive list
MRS. TOM HARDISTY
Corning, Iowa

AFRICAN VIOLETS
INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1955
SUNKIST BEAUTY OMAR ROSE
STAR DUST
INQUIRIES AND VISITORS INVITED
E. H. THOMAS EDENA GARDENS
461 Bridge Road Walnut Creek, Calif.

TALLY 1954 American African

Violet Selections (A. A. V. S.)

Daisy Jones, Memphis, Tenn.

"BEST IN SHOW"

- 1 - Pink Cheer
- 2 - Azure Beauty (Glory)
- 3 - Bi-Color
- 4 - Snow Prince
- 5 - Double Neptune

NATIONAL GOLD AWARD

- 1 - Pink Cheer
- 2 - Navy Bouquet
- 3 - Painted Girl
- 4 - Azure Beauty
- 5 - Red Lady

NATIONAL PURPLE AWARD

- 1 - Navy Bouquet
- 2 - Snow Prince
- 3 - Azure Beauty
- 4 - Blue Heiress
- 5 - Hughes Holly

The African Violet Society Magazine, inaugurated its American African Violet Selections TALLY one year ago in order to focus attention on many fine varieties (some new and some old) which otherwise would not receive National recognition. The Tally is compiled from information received during the year from all Affiliated Clubs in the United States which up to the present time include approximately two hundred and thirty-two Chapters. The four questions asked for the tally are as follows:

1. Did your club have an African Violet Show or Display in 1954?
2. What was the name of the variety selected by the judges as "Best in Show?"
3. Did your club give the National Gold Ribbon? If so, what were the three registered named varieties?
4. Did your club give the National Purple Ribbon? If so, what were the three registered named varieties?

When having a Spring or Fall Show or Display, many of the clubs request the judges to select the "Best in Show" or QUEEN, or KING, or IMPERIAL plant which according to horticultural perfection is the finest and most perfect plant over all the blue ribbon winners. Then, this "Best in Show" plant is usually given a Tri-color Award. This tri-color winning plant can be an un-named seedling or one of the old or newer varieties or perhaps a registered named variety, but if you have been the proud possessor

of a "Best in Show" plant we are sure your joy has been unbounded.

We believe members of our Affiliated Chapters who have won the National Gold or Purple Ribbons have been especially thrilled at the recognition their plants received. To grow three registered named varieties which are point scored 90 to 99 by the judges is a feat to be more than proud of.

We want to continue our Tally each year and we hope the Affiliated Chapters will continue to cooperate as they have in the past. We appreciate the reports which we received from many, many of the clubs -- it has helped to make our Tally complete. THANKS A MILLION!!!!

THE END

VOLUME I, NUMBER 1

Have you your copy of Volume I, Number 1? Only a limited number have been reprinted. This nice letter from Mrs. Greeley was received recently:

Dear Alma Wright:

I have received my copy of the re-print of Volume I, Number 1. In looking over it, I can understand just how the African Violet Society of America has made leaps and bounds in putting out the type of magazine we now are getting. What a big difference in the two magazines -- and in the type of paper now used. It is like getting a book to save.

Here's to bigger and better magazines as the years go on.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Claude E. Greeley

WORM CASTINGS

RICH ORGANIC HUMUS

Nature's finest growing medium for seeds, leaves, plants. Report on test plantings and formulas for potting mix used, included with your first order.

TRIAL BAG — postpaid — \$1.00

Quantity prices and catalog free

KRAUSE'S African Violet NURSERY

11823 Christopher Ave.

Inglewood, Calif.



African violet flowers, buds, and stems injured by a weed killer containing 2, 4-D. 1) injured flower stem; 2) normal flower stem; 3) injured inflorescence with damaged buds; 4) inflorescence showing injury to buds and flowers; 5) another inflorescence showing tendency of flowers at top of flower stems to develop tubular instead of normal flowers. The white object attached below the last flower of figure 5 is a label.

LAWN WEED-KILLERS CONTAINING 2, 4-D MAY CAUSE INJURY OR DEATH TO AFRICAN VIOLETS (SAINTPAULIA)

Evan Roberts, E. Lansing, Mich.

Watch out for weed killers, such as 2,4-D, that you might be applying to your lawn this summer. Weed killers may be the cause of abnormal flower development in African violets (*Saintpaulia*) as shown in the photograph. Even though a weed killing chemical may be applied to your lawn, it may be possible for it to affect *Saintpaulia* plants within the home which have not been intentionally sprayed.

Take, for example, the inquiry of Mrs. Elsie Morris of Sheridan, Oregon, which appears in the *African Violet Magazine*, Volume 7, No. 3, Page 67 under the heading of Question Box:

"I am a recent new member of the Society -- enjoying every line of the *African Violet Magazine*. I need help and hope to get it in the quickest possible time. I have a large collection of violets. Perhaps two hundred or more. I have been careful of the source from which I secure my plants. I have Montague Free's book and Helen Van Pelt Wilson's. I have searched for a solution to my problems but I am not satisfied I have spotted my trouble. First I noticed my Queen Neptune buds began to look more like a shiny berry -- many never came out in a natural way. The single violets had similar trouble -- but buds were slender and shiny with calyx unnaturally short -- normal buds being plump and calyx well developed. These plants seem healthy and produce many normal flowers. The centers of plants are healthy -- no signs of mites unless this condition is a sign. The stem is normally developed too."

Through correspondence with the author Mrs. Morris has indicated the use of a weed killer on the lawn and that the door to her plant room stood ajar.

Even though her plants were well away from the door, her African violet plants became injured. Apparently the very tiny particles of the weed killer drifted in the air above the lawn into the house, and very small amounts must have settled on the leaves of the plants. Entering through the living cells the chemical must have been translocated to other cells of the plant and possibly may have altered the formation of the buds or their development or both. This alteration takes time and would not be noticed until new buds and flowers are formed and appear. Therefore many days may pass between the time the chemical settles on the leaf and the time that the injury is noticed.

A second example of this type of injury was forwarded to the author by Mrs. Robert Seitz of Mishawaka, Indiana, who sent in the African violet buds and flowers from the varieties Mars Empress and Snow Prince shown in the above photograph. Her lawn was sprayed with a weed killer containing 2,4-D during the summer of 1954, after which trouble developed. The house windows were open as it was a quiet day with little air stirring. Mrs. Seitz also mentioned that a friend had injured buds of African violets similar to Mrs. Seitz' plants after her friend's husband sprayed outside with a similar weed killer.

Mrs. Seitz kindly forwarded a sample of the commercial weed killer to the author who made up a solution at the strength recommended by the manufacturer for use on lawns. Several plants of Mentor Boy were covered with the solution and within a month they died, whereas the plants of Mentor Boy which did not receive the treatment remained healthy. Apparently

Continued on page 49



Mrs. William Douglas and Mrs. Ross Harness, co-chairmen of the Pittsburgh Convention discuss African violets for the meeting.

HOTEL WILLIAM PENN PITTSBURGH'S WELCOME TO THE WORLD

At the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, where begins the mighty Ohio, stands Pittsburgh, second city of Pennsylvania and basic producer to the world. Probably no other city in the world has played such an important part industrially in the great growth of wealth and power which has placed the United States as a leader among the nations of the world.

The success of Pittsburgh's industry has also contributed generously to its achievements in education, art and science. Outstanding in these fields are the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, the great university of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning, the world-famous Carnegie Museum and Carnegie Institute, the Buhl Planetarium and the Phipps Conservatory. It also has one of the country's leading symphony orchestras and in the summertime, civic light opera company.

Pittsburgh also offers the unusually complete and extensive facilities and services of the Hotel William Penn, largest hotel between Chicago and New York, and seventh largest in the world. Its towering twenty-two stories contain sixteen hundred guest rooms, including beautiful suites and twin bedrooms, and almost twenty-five thousand square feet of modern, completely equipped function space. It has an advantageous location in the heart of Pittsburgh's famous Golden Triangle. The Hotel William Penn enjoys an enviable reputation for the superiority of its catering -- finest cuisine, personal service and sensible prices. No wonder, then, that the Hotel William Penn has become the day-by-day headquarters for the activities of the entire community's leading civic, business, social, political, religious, fraternal and professional organizations.

The Hotel William Penn has achieved even greater prominence in the hotel field because of

the vast program that was planned and executed for the modernization and renovation of guest rooms, function space, lobbies, dining rooms, service facilities such as ten ultra-modern automatic elevators, kitchens and storerooms, refrigeration and air-conditioning, in fact, all those

SUPPLIES for AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

PLASTIC LABELS

Miller's GREENPLAST 110 for \$1.00

INSECTICIDES

Sodium Selenate	12 caps	1.00
NNOR	6-oz.	1.35
Lindane	1-lb.	1.10
Soilene	8-oz.	1.00
Optox	6-oz.	1.35
Optox Special	6-oz.	1.75
Kapsulate	24 caps	1.00
Millecaps	25 caps	1.00

FUNGICIDES

Fermate	8-oz.	\$1.25
Fungicide A	6-oz.	1.40

FERTILIZERS

Plant Marvel	1-lb.	\$1.50
Electra	12-oz.	.95
Ra-Pid-Gro	1-lb.	1.50

FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Bone Meal	3-lbs.	\$1.60
Charcoal	3-qts.	1.50
Ground Limestone	3-lbs.	1.60
Gypsum	3-lbs.	1.60

FOR ORGANIC GROWING

Hydro-Tite Rock Potash	3-lbs.	\$1.60
Ruhm Phosphate Rock	3-lbs.	1.60
Michigan Peat	½ peck	1.50
Peat Moss, pulverized	½ bu.	1.75

POTS

Plastic, 2¼-inch	36 for	\$2.85
Plastic, 3-inch squatty	12 for	2.30
Plastic, production grade, 3-inch squatty	100 for	7.20
Progress, 2¼-inch	55 for	4.25
Progress, 3-inch	35 for	4.75
Strawberry Jars		2.50

PLASTIC

Film, 6-inch squares, for leaf rooting	20 for	\$1.00
Sheeting, 6 feet square		3.40

All prices above are postpaid

OTHER ITEMS

Metal foil, Vitamin B¹, Rootone, Transplantone, sprayers, etc., etc., everything ordinarily required or desired for raising African violets. Write for 32 page catalogue, it contains complete Insect Control Chart.

NEIL C. MILLER

Layton's Lake, R. D.
PENNS GROVE 6, N. J.

areas in which guests might be given more comfort, pleasure and more convenient service of all kinds.

These basic facts have been offered as an invitation to Pittsburgh and as a brief explanation of why the Hotel William Penn has earned such an outstanding position in this leading American metropolis. They also explain why leading trade and professional associations and other fine organizations in their respective fields throughout the state, region, and nation select Pittsburgh for conferences and conventions. Pittsburgh, of course, provides many reasons for meeting here; but without the accommodations, facilities and services afforded by the Hotel William Penn, suitable hospitality would be difficult if not impossible to render.

Much, if not all, of the following data about the Hotel William Penn should be of interest and help to those who may be intending to visit our dynamic, ever-growing city, for it is hoped that you will desire to be accommodated in our hotel. In addition to trade and professional association activities, we specialize in handling conferences and conventions of many of the country's leading companies and corporations.

Location -- The Hotel William Penn is situated on the entire block between Grant Street on the north and William Penn Way on the south, Oliver Avenue on the east and Sixth Avenue on the west. It is an ideal site in the center of the Golden Triangle, in which are Pittsburgh's leading office buildings, department stores and shops, theatres and churches. Two skyscrapers that will become nationally known are on William Penn Way, one opposite our Oliver Avenue corner and the other opposite our Sixth.

Terminals -- We have three stations which handle all the railroad traffic entering and leaving Pittsburgh and are within ten minutes walking distance -- five by taxis. The municipal airport is a forty minute distance by limousine. The Greyhound Bus Station is five minutes distance.

Transportation Service -- Our Porter Transportation Desk renders expert assistance, especially to railroad travelers, but for others as well. Five of the nation's leading airlines maintain day and night ticket and information desks in our main lobby. Airport limousines service is handled by dispatchers at a desk in our lobby. There is service to and from our doors at all hours.

Car Parking -- Our official garage, also outdoor parking facilities, are within one block of the hotel.

Special Features -- These are to be found in the Hotel William Penn: radio in every room -- four channels, circulating ice water, inner-spring mattresses, bed-head reading lights, certified guest room lighting, sterilized drinking glasses, electric razor outlet, television in all cocktail lounges and corner suites.

Special Services -- Same-day and overnight laundry service by our hotel-operated laundry, all-hour valet service, resident physician and nurse, drug store, barber shop and beauty salon in the hotel.

— Dining Rooms and Bars —

All comfortably air-conditioned:

Terrace Room -- Quiet luxury, enhanced by fine food and formal service. Open all year round for luncheon and dinner.

French Room -- Pittsburgh's most popular restaurant, featuring semi-formal service. Open for breakfast, luncheon.

Grill Room -- An economical place for all meals, especially when you are in a hurry. Table service at moderate prices is provided.

Continental Bar -- Pittsburgh's smartest and most modern cocktail lounge. It well deserves its reputation -- "The City's Most Popular Bar."

Men's Bar -- A pleasant room, very popular among business men and convention delegates for its quiet atmosphere for conviviality, business talk and stories.

Convention Facilities -- Seventeen floors above Pittsburgh's famous Golden Triangle, Hotel William Penn provides an entire block of public space, almost twenty thousand square feet, devoted exclusively to meetings, luncheons, banquets and exhibits. This space is divided into a number of rooms of various sizes so that the requirements of groups, large, medium or small, can be most satisfactorily fulfilled. Thus we can accommodate groups as small as twenty-five and as large as fifteen hundred in the greatest hotel convention area in all of Pennsylvania.

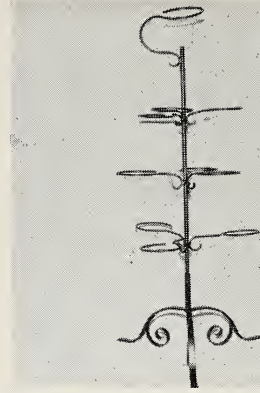
We offer also the beautiful new all-purpose Pittsburgh Room in the lower lobby. It contains four thousand four hundred and fifty-four square feet and can be used as an auxiliary room for large conventions or for an entirely separate affair.

We also provide almost all of those many equipment items so necessary for a successful convention; but of greater importance, a sales department manned by experienced men who know how to help plan, set up and anticipate those last minute needs, is at your call, early and late.

While it would be futile, if not impossible, to treat our convention story exhaustively, it is hoped that you will be sufficiently interested to tell us of your plans and requirements so that we can make a concrete presentation as warranted.

In these general statements about Pittsburgh and Hotel William Penn, we have tried to tell or remind you that many interesting things are constantly going on in the city and in the hotel. We hope soon to have you among us -- in your own groups or as individual visitors.

THE END



REVOLVING TREE TYPE STAND

With 5 inch rings. Holds 10 plants
Beautifully finished in flat black lacquer

Height 44 inches -- width 20 inches

First ring is 17 inches from floor

Price: \$13.95, F.O.B., Lafayette, Calif.

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for our free stand and violet folders.

LEAVES PLANTS SEED

ORCHARD NURSERY

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LAFAYETTE, CALIF.

LAWN WEED KILLERS

Continued from page 46

much smaller amounts of the chemical are deposited on the foliage by drifting from lawn areas, otherwise the plants would be killed, as was the case with the variety Mentor Boy when the foliage was completely covered by dipping. Further tests are being undertaken in which more dilute dosages of a weed killer have been applied to African violets in an attempt to have more positive evidence that the type of injury as shown in the photograph is caused by plant regulators such as 2,4-D. Meanwhile, if you are planning on putting weed killers on your lawn it is advisable to keep your doors and windows closed when the out-door application is being made and until the drift from the spray has settled. It is also advisable to have a special container for using weed-killer and not to use it for anything else so as to avoid further injury from getting those chemicals directly on the foliage by other means.

THE END



Dear Friends:

'Tis a cold, snowing day here in Ohio as I write this, but by the time you read it, spring will be just around the corner. We'll all be thinking and making plans for the Convention that will be here in no time at all. What fun it will be to meet the old friends and make many new ones. I hope to see all of you there.

I have some very fine hints for you and hope that they will benefit you in some way. Keep sending them to me and if I have not used them in an earlier issue, you'll find your hint in a forthcoming issue. Don't forget to send me your Pigeons so that I may go through them for hints for this column.

Your Hint Hunter
Helen

I do a bit of exchanging by mail and always had difficulty in getting the small plants out of their pots, without injuring or losing some of their root system. I finally hit on this idea. When I "pot up" tiny plants in clay pots, I fit a piece of foil over a smaller pot, then fit it inside the larger one, punch a hole in the bottom and set the plant in the foil lined pot. When they are ready to shift, the roots are intact and if wanted for mailing, the roots are already wrapped.

Joyce Hardesty, Corning, Iowa

Both leaves and cuttings will recover much faster from shipping if leaves or cuttings are sprinkled several times a day with warm water until roots are re-established. Disturbed roots cannot take in enough water for the plants need



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road
Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

to drink -- no matter how wet the soil. Plants can drink through their leaves equally well as through their roots.

Nelle Frye, Springfield, Pa., Unit 7

Who said that women can't agree on anything? That's not the case with the Pigeons of Unit 136. All of them agree that they prefer chicken grits above all else to set their pots in -- many also use it in their potting mixture.

Soot is beneficial to plants -- outdoor plants as well as African violets. It was a problem just how to use it until I thought of this trick. I take sphagnum moss and sieve it through a discarded kitchen sieve. To one pot of sieved sphagnum moss, I added a heaping tablespoon of soot and mixed it up. I put a tablespoon of this mixture in my plant pots and with a sharp stick, I scratched it in. In a very short time, I noticed that the blooms were more intense in color and much larger in size.

Mrs. Elda Conley, Ashtabula, Ohio

I much prefer a small piece of window screen at the bottom of my pot instead of pebbles or crockery. My plants have better drainage and it is so simple to push the plant out of the pot to check on roots or when re-potting.

Mrs. Taft Allen, Inglewood, Calif.

A quarter of a teaspoon of ammonium nitrate will darken the foliage of your plants. It can be used along with any other fertilizer that may be used.

Lillian Bennett, Manhattan, Kans.

A sprinkling of tobacco dust on the top of soil in the pot will discourage black flies as well as many other pests that have an affinity for African violets.

Mabel Byers, Bethel, Me., Unit 74

I have tried everything I have heard of to remove suckers from plants, but the one I like best is an old fashioned tiny hairpin. It can be hooked around the sucker and with a sharp yank, it is removed.

Ruth Wood, Gelatt, Pa., Unit 134

To grow thrifty violets a well drained soil is very important. I am inclined to believe that the mechanical condition of the soil is as important as the chemical content. They will grow well in vermiculite, with no fertility of its own if watered with a complete liquid fertilizer. If your plants are now growing in a too dense or compact



EDNA P. JONES

3560 French Rd.

Beaumont, Texas

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

Dear Pigeons:

In the few short months that I have had the Pigeons, it has been a real pleasure to receive your friendly letters. With the wonderful co-operation received from the directors and the members of the Pigeon Units, we have had many new members, and have been able to fill replacements as requested.

Many have volunteered to direct new groups, and as new ones are organized we will ask for your help. An effort has been made to check all units and bring the files up to date. Many have been returned because of wrong address. If any of you have been members of a group now disbanded and wish to join another, send in your request. Directors that have not received a request for a correct list of their units, we would like to hear from you. Requests have been received to organize Advanced and Directors Units. If you are interested write me.

CALLING ALL MEN: Phil Libby says the opposite sex is reluctant to join a club with the

soil, try making holes near the edge of the pot using a lead pencil. For bottom drainage, use a piece of tin, bent in the middle to make a tent over drainage hole.

Harry Fake, Pinckney, Mich.

In a recent Pigeon column, I quoted an article from Popular Gardening which mentioned the use of borax in gardening, I wondered what effect borax would have on African violets. One of my readers has written me that she lost a number of plants after using it. Other readers have written in the Pigeons of losing plants from different mixtures that have been written about in our magazine. May I suggest that when using a new chemical that has been suggested or even a new soil formula, that it be used in or on just a plant or two instead of a wholesale potting job. Years ago, I also lost many plants when I transplanted dozens of plants to a new soil mixture, using ingredients that were new to me. I don't have the time to try all the new ideas that I mention in my column, so don't know their worth from personal experience. Remember -- try these new ideas on just a plant or two, keep records and watch their performance. If satisfactory, then go ahead and use it on more plants.

THE END

girls. SO-o-o we would like to invite you to become members of the Homing Pigeon Units, or would help you organize some units of your own.

A common complaint is that courtesy cards are not being mailed to the directors or that units are being held too long. Remember to send your courtesy card; it is most important, and it is the one thing that helps your directors trace the Pigeon if it is lost.

Marie Dannemiller has organized an Organic Pigeon; we wish her success with the new group.

Several months ago Catherine B. Shepherd of Arlington, Virginia, started to organize an International Pigeon; it has taken a lot of time and effort to do this. The first International Unit started its flight on November 26, 1954. A message from Mrs. Shepherd to those living outside the U. S. A. and wishing to become members of an International Group -- write Mrs. Shepherd.

THE INTERNATIONAL PIGEONS

"The first International Pigeon of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., is now winging its way around the globe. For those members who are in one, they should be very interesting. For those in far off countries it will make them feel closer to the Society. There will be others to follow the first one." Catherine B. Shepherd, 5245 5th St., N., Arlington, Virginia, U. S. A.

A note from Joan Copeland to all Pigeon Members:

"It has always made me annoyed to drive through a new part of the country, see violets all over the place, and not be able to find out who is selling them, so I too can get some plants. If only there were some sort of guide book to tell me how to reach these growers. I feel the need of such a guide so strongly that I'm offering to compile one myself. But I can't do it alone. I'll need the help of every last one of you! Naturally, I can see the names of the larger growers who can afford to advertise in most of our magazines, but you all know them, too. It is the "little people" I want to learn about. So I need the help of both the growers and the collectors. Would you collectors send me a list of anyone you know, anywhere, who is selling? Anyone who doesn't advertise in our magazine. Surely there will be duplications -- Don't worry, I'll sort them out.

"And those of you who are selling, whether it is just a few plants to make your hobby pay for itself, whether you have a small business and would just like to be better known, or whether your business is large enough to support you -- you could do with more customers, too, couldn't you -- won't you drop me a line? I'll send you a questionnaire to answer. And would each of you, at the same time, make suggestions as to the best way to compile this guide? Would you like to have it as a reference book, on display at the Conventions, or would you prefer it to be printed so you could have it with you

always? There is no thought that there should be any charges, either for listing or consulting. But you will understand that if you want anything printed to have for yourself, there would have to be a small charge. What do you think of the whole idea? I quite realize that I am letting myself in for a terrific amount of work, but if you feel, as I do, that this guide has long been needed, then write me, won't you? Unless I hear from a lot of you, I will assume that you are not interested, but please don't expect a reply -- I'm anticipating an avalanche of mail!"

Mrs. Joan E. Copeland, Erindale, Ontario, Can.

I agree with Joan that it would be wonderful to have a guide of both large and small growers, and we feel this information can be obtained through the Pigeons. Don't forget to send in your hints for our News Editor, Helen Pochurek. Convention time is almost here and I will be looking forward to meeting you at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,
Edna Jones

AFRICAN VIOLETS

WILL SHIP LEAVES OF MANY VARIETIES
FREE LIST
PLANTS — ALL SIZES SOLD AT HOME

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THE VIOLET PATCH

"African Violets of Distinction"

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SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

Strong young plants and fine 3-plant cuttings of:
SABRE DANCE — huge purple-tipped bicolor.
ZEPHYR PINK — new and outstanding in the pink class; gorgeous.

PINK FRINGETTE — beautiful fringed pink; lovely.
DOUBLE BLUE HEIRESS; ELIZABETH THE QUEEN; GLAMOROUS LADY; HI-LOAS and many other Tonkdale varieties, including the gorgeous DOUBLE PANSY BEAUTY, a perfect show plant; CLEMENTINE; FRILLED DUPONT; lovely AKRON GIRL; superb FLORADORA; BLUE RIDGE; LILAC TIME; FINLANDIA; LOLLIPOP; CALICO; AUGUSTA huge pink; PINK CHARM; Gent's BLUE CLUSTER; DOUBLE INSPIRATION; BERNICE; LAVENDER LACE; double PANDORA; SHOW MAN, largest of all whites; BLUE FEATHER; SUNBURST, outstanding variegated; ALBINO GIRLS; RUFFLED DEBUTANTE; FLEUR PETITE; CHERIE; EDITH CAVELL; MADONNA; hundreds of other varieties; and fresh-cut leaves of several varieties of the new Double Pinks.

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My Introduction to African Violets

Ruth M. Hall

Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex, England

When I acquired my first African violet leaves in 1953 from a friend for whom I occasionally baby-sat, I did not then realize that I had found for myself a delightful new hobby. And when in due course my leaves rooted and the tiny plants appeared, I was especially thrilled; for, knowing nothing of their culture at the time, I had put them into heavy garden soil.

This was encouraging, and I sent away for more leaves of different varieties. Getting rather impatient for blooms, I purchased with some difficulty a plant through our local nurseryman.

By this time I had gained more knowledge of their care, and having read that they enjoy humidity and steam, I religiously toiled upstairs with them every bath-time. Later, however, you can imagine that as my plants increased this became a wearisome task; then I hit upon the happy idea of having some shelves put up on one wall of the bathroom, installing a small heater and keeping the violets there permanently, which has proved very successful.

Early this year I sent for a list of leaf cuttings from Mrs. Joy Hutson, whose very helpful advice on African violets I had enjoyed reading so much in a weekly gardening magazine. The names fascinated me, and I wrote to Mrs. Hutson and inquired whether I might visit her. In June I set out by bus for her home in Luton in Bedfordshire, about three hours journey from here.

It was a memorable moment for me when Mrs. Hutson, whom I found most helpful and charming, took me into her greenhouse, and I saw just one mass of color and beauty. I started for home with several of these lovely plants, wishing that I could have carried more.

In September my plants numbered over one hundred, so you can guess that we are getting pretty crowded in the bathroom. I am happy to say that my husband has bought me a greenhouse for them, which will shortly be erected. I think that he had despaired of ever relaxing in the bath again without having rows and rows of flowerpots for company. So, ladies, if ever you are needing a greenhouse, you know what to do!!

Sometime soon I hope to make the trip again to Luton and add to my collection of Saint-paulias. I dream that by next summer my greenhouse, too, will be filled with these enchanting colorful flowers.

THE END

MY VIOLETS

Mrs. Lawrence Blindauer, Green Bay, Wisconsin

When I talk about African violets I don't know where to begin -- they are all so beautiful!

I have a thousand plants about -- sometimes I have more and sometimes less, depending upon the young starter plants and cuttings.

My collection includes all kinds . . . Singles, Doubles, Bi-colors, Fringettes, Rosettes, Rose-o'nas and every new variety I can get. Would love to correspond with collectors about the newer introductions.

Visitors are welcome. If you are in my section I would be delighted to have you come and see my plants. Friends from all over the state of Wisconsin have been to see me, as well as violet folk from Michigan and Illinois. This past summer one of the Society's National judges came to visit me and talk African violets. She gave me many fine pointers on our favorite plant. I will be happy to share this information, as well as my personal experience on growing and collecting, with any who care to write me.

I grow my plants in large racks with four shelves each. I also have a long table with an under shelf that is good -- two movable stands with fluorescent lights that were made for me by my husband from two old doll carriages. Young plants are grown in the basement on large tables. They like it there because they grow so fast for me.

To throw away a good leaf is something I cannot do. I just plant and plant -- for it seems



Mrs. Blindauer

when you are once interested in African violets you cannot stop.

Many of my friends are now growing and collecting violets -- it is such a fascinating hobby they could not resist. So let me hear from you. I am known here as "The African Violet Lady" of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

THE END



GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS FAST WITH THOMPSON'S AMAZING AFRICAN VIOLET ROOTER

Simply dip stems in powder and in 2 to 3 weeks they shoot sturdy roots.
Buy at most good garden stores or order by mail. \$1.00 postpaid.

THOMPSON CHEMICALS CORP.
3028A Locust St. St. Louis 31, Mo.

VIOLETS ARE BETTER THAN EVER

These three prize winners are now available to dealers. Wholesale shipping only. List of other varieties on request.

GRENADIER

This is IT! All the good features of a DuPont, but on a plant of compact growth to fit the average window sill. Large, fully double red flowers, nice heavy foliage. A real beauty.

CALUMET BEACON

Large variegated blue and white double bloom on a nice symmetrical plant with round spooned leaves. Easy to groom into a stunning show plant.

TAJ MAHAL

Lavender-pink blooms with sparkling white edge. Top petals incurved. Different and distinctive. Always in bloom.

RICHTER'S GREENHOUSE

607 HOFFMAN STREET

HAMMOND, INDIANA

(Three blocks west of U. S. 41 and 1 block south of Ind. 312)

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Phil Libby, P. O. Box 53, Racine Wisconsin

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period August 10 to November 29, 1954.

PLANTS AND REGISTRANTS

African Queen 10-14-54
Leah F. Paul
2165 Preston Street
Salt Lake City, Utah
Chenille 11-29-54
Richter's Greenhouse
607 Hoffman
Hammond, Indiana
Confederate Beauty 10-2-54
Fischer's Greenhouses
Oak Avenue
Linwood, New Jersey
Congo King 8-10-54
Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska
Cream Delight 8-10-54
Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska
Double Pink Cheer 10-29-54
Lyndon Lyon
14 Mutchler Street
Dolgeville, New York
Double Pink Cloud 10-29-54
Lyndon Lyon
14 Mutchler Street
Dolgeville, New York
Double Pink Puff 10-29-54
Lyndon Lyon
14 Mutchler Street
Dolgeville, New York
Double Pink Wild Rosa 10-29-54
Lyndon Lyon
14 Mutchler Street
Dolgeville, New York
Gent's Blue Cluster 8-18-54
John R. Gent & Sons, Inc.
595 Vosburg Road
Webster, New York
Gent's Blue Waves 8-18-54
John R. Gent & Sons, Inc.
595 Vosburg Road
Webster, New York
Gent's Rippling Geneva 8-18-54
John R. Gent & Sons, Inc.
595 Vosburg Road
Webster, New York
Northern Prize 11-16-54
Sheldon C. Reed
1588 Vincent Street
St. Paul, Minnesota

Pansy Girl 8-18-54
Norene M. Kolb
625 Main Street
Pleasanton, California
Pink Vivacious 8-10-54
Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha 2, Nebraska
Regency 10-2-54
Fischer Greenhouses
Oak Road
Linwood, New Jersey
Starch White 11-6-54
Miss Daisy Jones
1327 Sterick Building
Memphis 3, Tennessee
Veribest 11-29-54
Richter's Greenhouse
607 Hoffman
Hammond, Indiana

PART II

The following NAME RESERVATIONS have been received during the period August 10, to November 29, 1954:

Adirondack Sunrise	Friiled Hepatica
Amalzia	Gwenivere
Blue Abundance	Linda Lou
Blue Crest	Northern Crest
Blue Rhapsody	Northern Rose
Blue Velvet Rosette	Northern Sheen
Double Peach Blossom	Northern Star
Double Rainbow	Old China
Early Dawn	Pamela
Engardt's Blushing Bride	Pink Dilly
Engardt's Bridegroom	Pink Loveliness
Engardt's Chantilly	Pink Melody
Engardt's Persian Prince	Rosy Cheeks
Friiled Gentian	

PART III

Due to the confusion among the membership on the naming of new varieties, seedlings, and sports, the following is published for general information:

CODE OF RULES FOR NOMENCLATURE AND REGISTRATION

(Revised Jan. 1, 1950)

NOMENCLATURE

1. **RULES ADOPTED.** Realizing the great confusion and inconvenience that arises from duplication of names and varieties, and recognizing the great convenience of simple, usable names, the African Violet Society of America, Inc., adopts the following rules of nomenclature to apply to the named varieties of African violets used in all the publications of the Society, at its exhibitions, and at exhibitions and shows

of any kind that the Society may sponsor or approve.

2. **PRIORITY.** No two varieties of African violets (*Saintpaulia*) registered by the Society shall bear the same name or a name that is quite similar. The first name published shall be the accepted and recognized one, except where the name has been applied in violation of this code.

3. **PUBLICATION.** Publication, for the purposes of this code, consist in:

a. Formal registration with the African Violet Society of America.

b. Distribution of a printed description of a variety, giving the distinguishing characteristics of a plant, flower, foliage, etc.
AMENDED, Nashville Convention, 1953.
No description necessary.

c. Publication of a new name for a variety that is properly described in any book, bulletin, report, trade catalog or periodical, provided the issue is generally distributed among African violet growers, nurserymen, and horticulturists.

4. **CITATION.** In the full and formal citation of the name of an African violet, the name of the originator or introducer should also be given.

5. **REVISIONS.** No properly published variety name of an African violet shall be changed for any reason except confliction with this code, and another variety shall not be substituted for the one originally described thereunder. Necessary changes of a name to conform to the provisions of this code must be approved by the Committee on Registration of the Society before being recognized.

6. **NAMING.** No variety should be named unless it is distinctly superior to existing varieties in some important characteristic.

7. In selecting names, the following points should be taken into consideration: distinctiveness, simplicity, euphony, ease of pronunciation, and spelling.

8. When it is expedient, white, red, double, and similar descriptive words may be used as part of a name, but not such words as seedling, hybrid or sport.

9. A variety of African violet imported from a foreign country shall retain its foreign name, without translation.

10. The name of a living person should not be applied to an African violet without his or her consent. The name of a deceased person should not be applied without consent of his or her heirs.

11. The use of a number, either alone or attached to a word, may be considered in lieu of a name of a variety of African violet, only as a temporary expedient while the variety to which it may be applied is undergoing preliminary test.

12. In applying the provisions of these rules to an existing variety name that has, through long usage, become firmly attached to such variety, no change shall be made which will involve loss of identity.

13. The paramount right of the originator, discoverer, or introducer of a new variety of African violet to name it, within the limitations of this code, is recognized and emphasized.

14. Where a variety name, through long usage, has become thoroughly established for two or more varieties of African violets, it should not be displaced or radically modified for either variety. Two or more varieties bearing an identical name should be distinguished from each other by adding the names of the originator or introducer of each sort, or by adding some suitable distinguishing term that will insure identity in catalogs, shows or discussion.

15. **ENFORCEMENT.** The Chairman of the Committee on Registration is authorized to withhold registration of any name which does not conform to these rules.

REGISTRATION

16. Registration of new varieties of African violets by the African Violet Society of America is intended to make effective the rules of nomenclature previously stated.

17. Registration is given equally to seedlings and sports always and only when the name of the originator, if known, is stated in the application for registration. No person other than the originator may register a seedling unless permission, in writing, from the originator to make such registration has been granted. Said letter of permission must accompany the registration form prescribed by Rule 22.

18. Due to the characteristic of variableness of African violets, a new variety, either seedling or sport, should not be registered until thoroughly tested through propagation by leaf cutting, to ascertain the extent to which it will reproduce true to form.

19. The Committee on Registration will publish all applications for registration in the African Violet Magazine, the official organ of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., with notice that objections to be effective must be filed with the Chairman of the Committee on Registration within six months of such publication. If no objection is made, registration may then become permanent and accordingly so published in a subsequent issue of the African Violet Magazine. In the event of objection to registration, decision will rest with the Executive Committee of the Society. AMENDED, objections were removed from these rules by Board of Directors -- Nashville Convention, 1953.

20. The Committee on Registration may, at its option, request that a new variety of African violet offered for registration shall be seen in bloom by one or more of its members before registration is made.

21. The Executive Committee of African Violet Society of America may approve the establishment of one or more testing stations, wherein the various varieties of African violets may be

grown for the purpose of observation and otherwise. These testing stations shall be definitely related to the operations of the Committee on Registration, and the curator or operator of each such station shall be a member of the Committee on Registration.

22. African violets offered for registration must be properly and adequately described on the blank forms supplied by the Chairman of the Committee on Registration for this purpose.

23. Effective January 1, 1950, registration service is free of all cost both to members and non-members of the Society. AMENDED, Nashville Convention, 1953. Fee is now \$3.00.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION CONCERNING REGISTRATION AND NAME RESERVATION OF AFRICAN VIOLETS.

REGISTRATION, is a public claim to having originated a new and worthy variety of African violet. Registration is accomplished by filling out completely the APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION CARD and forwarding it to the Registrar. The Registrar checks the card for completeness of information and apparent correctness, and if it appears in order, includes the application in the Registration Report published in a subsequent issue of the African Violet Magazine.

Registration is a public claim to having originated or introduced a new and worthy variety of African violet; it is NOT a certification by the Society that it is new and different.

No matter what the origin of the plant, whether seedling, sport, mutation, etc., it must be carried through at least **THREE** generations before an "APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION" can be filed on it. The applicant must furnish approximate planting and flowering dates of at least **THREE** generations. There is no place on the card for this information; it must be placed in a separate statement accompanying each application. No application will be published for which this information has not been furnished.

By action of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America, at the Nashville Convention of 1953 -- a \$3.00 registration fee was set for each registration application. This must be sent to the Registrar along with the APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION card.

Payment of the registration fee is necessary even though the name was reserved during the no-fee period.

Plant or leaves should not be sent to the Registrar along with the APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION. A testing station may be established in the future but no facilities are available to the Registrar now.

It is not necessary to submit a written description of the plant, but IT IS DESIRABLE that this be done (a written description was necessary from the Dayton Convention of 1951

to the Nashville Convention of 1953). Please be careful that any description submitted is legible, properly punctuated, factual, and clearly expressed. These descriptions will be attached to the APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION cards in the Master File.

NAME RESERVATION

The reason back of the practice of NAME RESERVATION can be explained as follows:

REGISTRATION requires that a plant be carried through at least **THREE** generations. During this period the plant must have some kind of a designation; and attempts to designate it by anything other than a name have generally been unsuccessful. But it has frequently occurred that a name honestly applied for to a plant by one person during the testing-propagation period was selected and used by some other person before the testing was completed. Meanwhile some specimens of the under-test plant had been sold by that name. Thus there were two plants on the market under the same name and the person who used the name first could not make sole use of it. It was felt that the number of instances of this kind **could be reduced** if public notice were made that the name was being given to a plant under test but not ready for REGISTRATION, and that also before using a name, that each person check with the Registrar to see if the name was in use.

The plant must be in existence when a request for NAME RESERVATION is made. But the plant can be very young and can have shown only slight signs of superiority.

There is no card to be filled out by the applicant for NAME RESERVATION. All that is necessary is to write the Registrar stating that you have a promising young plant or plants and would like to reserve your selected name(s) for it or them. The Registrar will check the Master File, fill out and file the Master File cards, and inform you of the status of the name or names. If the name is admissible, it will be published in a subsequent issue of the African Violet Magazine.

By action of the Board of Directors of the African Violet Society of America at the Nashville Convention in 1953 -- a fee of \$1.00 was set for each name reserved. This fee **MUST** accompany each request for each NAME RESERVATION.

Renewals of reservations are subject to a fee of \$1.00 per name, even though the original reservation was made during the no-fee period.

Responsibility of the Society for a NAME RESERVATION ends with publication in the African Violet Magazine of the fact of the reservation. The Society has no power to enforce observation of a reservation. However, if a reservee will notify the Registrar of any cases of appropriation of a reserved name by others the Registrar will call to the violator's attention the fact of the reservation with the suggestion that use of the name be discontinued.

Reservation is for a period of two years after date of publication but can be renewed for a further period of two years if observation of the plant does not yet permit decision as to whether or not it should be REGISTERED. A grace period of six months is permitted for a renewal, but unless renewal is made within this grace period the NAME RESERVATION expires automatically, and the name is considered available to use or reservation by others. To be specific name reservations published in the September 1951 issue of the African Violet Magazine expired with the publication of the September 1953 issue (unless renewed) and are available for action by others after the publication of the March 1954 issue.

If a plant has received some distribution under the reserved name during the testing period so that it is actually in the hands of others, and the reservee decides not to complete REGISTRATION on it, the Registrar should be informed of the facts so that the MASTER FILE card can be stamped -- NAME PROTECTED. This will prevent the name from being re-issued with the resulting confusion of two plants existing under the same name.

I sincerely hope that this will clear up the minds of many members who have written me on the subject of Registration and Name Reservation. However, I believe that we all agree that the system is not as good as it should be, but rest assured that your Committee is working hard on new thoughts that should improve the present system.

PART IV

LIST OF REGISTERED VARIETIES

With show time in the near offing, judges and many others will be interested to know that we have now a list of the registered varieties, up to August 31, 1954. The price of this list is \$1.00 postpaid. The use of these lists will save a lot of time looking up registered varieties in past issues of the magazine.

THE END

RICHARDS VIOLET GARDENS

INVITES YOU TO TRY THESE LOVELIES . . .

NIAGARA ROSE — a fine medium pink with darker eye. Has splendid dark green foliage.

NIAGARA MIRROR — blue double with silver reverse, 12 to 15 bloom to a stem on mature plant. Makes fine show plant.

NIAGARA SKIES — two toned ruffled blue, fine bloomer. Wavy foliage.

NEW BLUE — powder blue, waxy dark green foliage.

BLUE DART — single and semi dbl. dark flowers, 10 to 12 on a stem. Well grown specimen, a ribbon winner.

ALSO — several new varieties, tested but not yet named. Will be ready by March.

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PLANTS, LEAVES AND SUPPLIES
VISITORS WELCOME

(We do not ship)

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200 NEW AND FAVORITE VARIETIES

PLANTS — ROOTED CUTTINGS — LEAVES

Send stamp for list

1365 S. 125th St.

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2 Miles from Highways 16, 18, 30, 15, 45 and 100

Choice African Violets

Pots and Supplies

Reasonable prices — No Shipping

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LYKE'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

EAST BETHANY, NEW YORK

Rt. 63, 6 miles Southeast of Batavia

Are you interested in a hand valve attachment to fit regular garden hose, for watering? Is not a spray, but gives small or larger stream of water, so you can water in trays, saucers, etc. Price is \$2.75 postpaid. No C. O. D. please.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

PLANTS LEAVES SUPPLIES

Best of the new and older varieties. Free List. Shipping to all parts of Canada.

WE DO NOT SHIP TO THE U. S. A.

MARGARET L. CLELAND

1163 River Rd. Niagara Falls, Canada

— VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME —

AFRICAN VIOLETS

OLD AND NEW VARIETIES

Propagating and Hybridizing

SHIP

PLANTS

Two cent stamp for list

LEAVES

ETHEL HOBUS

328 Story St.

Council Bluffs, Ia.

VISITORS WELCOME

SAINTPAULIAS EPISCIAS DAYLILIES

African Violets, labeled, Different. Young plants 12/\$4.50. Leaves 10/\$1.25, 30/\$3.25. Stamp for list. A. V. and Giant Hybrid Gloxinia seeds 50¢ pkgs. (150 seeds), \$1 pkgs. (400). Episcias, 4 different \$2.30 -- Shipped April. Daylilies: 1-yr. seedlings of fine hybrids 12/\$1.75 -- hand pollinated seed: 50/\$1.

FFOULKES'

610 Bryan,

Jacksonville 2, Fla.

Dept. A. V.

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

CINDERELLA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. Douglas J. Harrington, Pres.
3953 25th Ave., S.
Minneapolis, Minn.

DORETE CLUB OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Harold Tollas, Pres.
1002 Desoto St.
St. Paul, Minn.

DUCHESS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. William White, Pres.
R. R. No. 3
Cottam, Ontario, Can.

FIRST HALIFAX AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. Jack Fram, Pres.
93 S. Park St.
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Can.

GREATER ENDICOTT AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY, N. Y.

Mrs. Gerald Hoyt, Pres.
113 Melborne St.
Vestal, N. Y.

HIAWATHA VIOLET CLUB

Billie Maxam, Pres.
5332 45th Ave., S.
Minneapolis, Minn.

LONG ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. Oliver A. Wyckoff, Pres.
708 Prospect Pl.
Bellmore, Long Island, N. Y.

MILE-HIGH AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Mrs. Wallace Pearce, Pres.
1005 W. 15th St.
Golden, Colo.

RALEIGH AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

Mrs. J. R. Warren, Pres.
21 Shepherd St.
Raleigh, N. C.

SAINTPAULIA STUDY CLUB

Mrs. A. W. McCormick, Pres.
1362 Everhart St., S. W.
Atlanta, Ga.

SUBURBAN SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY

Mrs. Edward O. Moss, Pres.
806 N. Harvard Ave.
Arlington Heights, Ill.

SUNRISE SAINTPAULIA CLUB OF TOLEDO, OHIO, CHAPTER 1

Mrs. Carl Fleming, Pres.
3329 Kenwood Blvd.
Toledo, Ohio

THE FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF OWENSBORO

Mrs. Robert Howard, Pres.
406 Hill Ave.
Owensboro, Ky.



Your Affiliated Chapter Chairman is:

GRACE ROWE
749 Columbia Street
Aurora, Illinois

Dear Affiliated Chapter Members:—

Again let me say "thanks" for your earnest cooperation and for your friendly letters.

One year ago I sent my first greetings to you as your Affiliated Chapter Chairman. Perhaps you would be interested in a short resume of the work I have done in the past eleven months. (Writing this letter December 1, so still have a month to go to finish the year).

There are two hundred and sixty-seven chapters as of this date, fifty-one of which have affiliated with African Violet Society of America, Inc., in 1954. I also have forty-two letters in my file of inquiry regarding affiliation, and some of these will materialize.

Have received one thousand, four hundred pieces of mail and have sent out one thousand and seventy-five pieces of mail.

We learn as we go. To eliminate confusion I put into use the CHAPTER ONLY Affiliated Membership Report (white) and a green Affiliated Chapter Membership Card to differentiate from the personal membership report and the personal membership card.

Also, as you all know by now, I issued my so-called REQUEST SHEET, which is working so well I will only call your special attention to a few of the items.

Item No. 1: "Always mention your Chapter Name when writing me." It is so helpful when you do. Many chapters do have letter head stationery, and this is an answer to the problem.

Item No. 2: I'm proud and happy to say I need not emphasize this item. Come the end of the month and all chapters are paid up. Have just two delinquent ones. One due in February, 1954, and the other in September, 1954.

Item No. 5: I still am seeking your full cooperation on this item. "Please send all Affiliated Chapter Material to me. Membership reports, new and renewal, checks, etc." When you send Affiliated membership reports, be they new or renewal, to treasurer, she must send them to me for verification. I have the records.

Mrs. Ralph Berst, 434 N. Williams Street, Dayton, Ohio, chairman of the Boyce Eden Memorial Fund, tells me you responded very well to her appeal. To date she has received a total of \$1,615.00.

I just sent her a list of twenty-one of the newer Chapters, so perhaps if you have not heard from her you will hear very soon. Keep up this good work.

AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES

Hundreds of varieties described. Leaves shipped by return mail and are guaranteed to reach you in perfect condition.

HELEN MONTGOMERY

5744 Oak

KANSAS CITY 13, MO.

Are you interested in organizing a local society and affiliating with African Violet Society of America, Inc?

I have a form which is helpful in organizing and lists the qualifications for an Affiliated Chapter. They are:

1. Twenty-five per cent of Chapter's local members must be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.

2. All officers of each Affiliated Chapter must be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc.

3. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its Constitution and By-Laws.

4. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its entire membership, including a list of the officers, designating those members of the African Violet Society of America.

5. Each Affiliated Chapter must pay to African Violet Society of America, Inc., an annual membership fee of \$2.50.

Do hope we will be able to add fifty or sixty more Chapters in 1955.

Please feel free to call on me for I am always most happy and willing to serve you.

Again I will say I enjoy a chatty letter. How are your violets growing -- north, south, east and west, and what are you doing in your Chapter programs?

Sincerely,
Grace Rowe



The **NEWEST** and **BEST** way to prevent leaf-stalk infection and petiole rot in African violets.

Pliable, durable, heavy and easy-to-apply.

SEND \$1.00 FOR

270-in. roll of **PROTECTOTAPE** postpaid

GRAYLINE SPECIALTIES CO.

Box 1529, Grand Central Station

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Professional Growers: write for special quantity rates.

AFRICAN VIOLETS HOUSE GROWN PLANTS

Sold at Home
LEAVES MAILED
SEND STAMP FOR LIST
MRS. MATT A. HUEPFEL
SPRINGFIELD, MINNESOTA

YOU, TOO, CAN GROW PRIZE-WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS

For two years the prize-winning blossoms at the National African Violet Show have been grown with Plant Marvel . . . the scientifically balanced, 100% water-soluble plant food. It supplies the entire root system with the natural, concentrated food elements needed for rapid, healthy growth and bloom. Very easy and economical to use . . . a 35¢ package makes 68 quarts, 75¢ package makes 125 gals., \$1.25 package makes 250 gals. of rich liquid food.

FREE SAMPLE: Write for free sample and a copy of our African Violet folder.

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"Feed as you water"

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Plants Rooted Leaves Leaves

New introductions and older varieties
I will have new Double Pinks as soon as released.

Send for list

FERNE for AFRICAN VIOLETS

FERNE V. KELLAR

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Plan to visit me. North edge of town on U. S. Highway No. 11.

exciting new varieties . . .

DOUBLE PINKS? . . . SURE

Send stamp for leaf-cutting catalog listing several Double Pinks and many other new introductions. Leaf shipments guaranteed to any point in the U. S. and Canada.

NO PLANTS SHIPPED

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

141 Holley St. Brockport, N. Y.
(closed Wednesdays)



ACROSS THE DESK

Shirley M. Heinsohn, Knoxville, Tenn.



Although we were moving into a city that was my husband's home, I knew before we arrived that it would take me a little while to make close friends of my own. I didn't know then that I would have the good fortune to move across the street from a wonderful person like Alma. She was a grand neighbor, and then became my closest friend. And in the process of getting to know her, I was introduced to the African violet and the Society Magazine.

Thus I began working with Alma Wright on the African Violet Magazine. I can truly say that it has been most rewarding work, and sometimes the wildest! Little did I know the amount of work involved when I volunteered my services and listed my qualifications, which included newspaper work on one of the largest Southern papers and magazine work in Washington, D. C. But I can assure you, my violet friends, that working with Alma was *nothing* like anything I had ever known.

I started out with simply servicing the library, answering the letters thereof, and scheduling the programs. In two-and-a-half years the correspondence for the library alone averages five letters a day. But it was just in the formative stages then and was relatively simple.

Next I offered to help our editor with her correspondence. She brought out a bushel basket full of mail, and when I gasped and asked how long it had accumulated, she said, quite casually, "Oh, this is only this week's delivery." Along about this time I began to realize that being editor of this magazine, which is actually an amateur publication, required daily attention -- and I do mean *daily*!

But this was only the beginning! I began doing story rewrites shortly after this, and soon I began to realize what a greenhorn I really was. One day I asked, "Alma who did this before I helped you?"

"Why I have always handled the magazine stories, rewrites, copy, pictures, etc., she replied. "Ever since the Society was formed in 1946 and a publication was decided upon, I have edited the magazine. I have had a great deal of help from my associates and associate editors. But the responsibility of getting out a magazine four times a year has been mine." I thought this over carefully at the time, and have continued to think about it for two-and-a-half years.

Next I was initiated into the layout of the magazine. Now if two budding psychiatrists could see us at work on this, they would throw up their hands and run. For this is the part of the magazine work that I refer to as wild. Wild

it is! With scissors in hand, pins in mouth and papers from one end of the room to the other, we are off on another issue of the "mag."

I think I could best explain layout work by looking around me now, for we are in the process of getting out the March issue. Alma is talking to herself with her mouth full of pins. Neither one of us look as if we had ever combed our hair or worn make-up. Three jars of paste are spread before her, and she is juggling pictures madly to work them in with the Show News copy. We have just finished counting ads -- advertising to you -- and with ninety-nine such ads before us, we are just beginning to figure "space", or how many stories and pictures we can use, and what size our magazine will be this issue. The children have spilled coke on some of the copy from the printer, and it is drying on the living room chairs. Alma alternately groans and gasps, for some of the copy is late again and we can't figure space. During the evening she has swallowed three pieces of gum, and between us we have smoked two packs of cigarettes. Just about the time we really get "started" into a layout for a story, the phone rings and Margaret Travis calls with the latest word -- two more ads have just come in. But then this is just the first day of real work on the layout, and we can expect to be "going strong" on it for another five days-and nights.

When the final layout goes to the printer, after all the stories and advertising have been proof-read, or checked with the original copy, we approach the final week of work. This week is spent at the printer, practically *under* the press. If we have retained even a tiny bit of sanity up to this point, the remains flow out the window as the presses begin to roll. Crash, bang, roar! This is the wind-up. For now we recheck every eight-page proof. We check for words, spelling, final punctuation, headings to stories, spacing, continuity, pictures, ink spots on the print, page numbers, and every little thing that goes into the making of the magazine.

I have just about decided that your editor's own life-blood goes into the printer's ink. Or maybe it flows into the functioning of the Society. She also handles the office, supervises the card files, checks on renewals and soothes other Society member's tangled nerves.

I often wondered why Alma continued to carry this tremendous responsibility that demands so much of her and her time. She is the wife of a successful engineer, who is a partner in a construction machinery business. She has a *highly* intelligent son in the University who demands
(Cont. to bottom of next page)

New 3-Tier Aluminum Plant Stand . . .

A spanking new kind of plant stand that travels on smooth-rolling plastic wheels from window to window or into the kitchen for watering, has been announced by The House Plant Corner, national mail order suppliers of accessories and equipment for African violets and other potted plants.

Made of aluminum, the new stand is unbelievably light in weight and easy to roll or carry, plants and all, from place to place. It weighs only seven pounds. Three large trays of shelves 12" x 31" in size and 10½" apart, hold 20 to 30 large plants. Because the trays are just wide enough for two rows of large plants, all plants stand close to an outside edge of a tray where each one can be reached easily for watering and turning. This also eliminates crowding and gives each plant its full share of light and air, especially with daily turning of the stand from one side to the other. The seamless rolled no-drip edges of the trays will hold up to one-half inch of water in each tray, so there is no chance of spillage running off to the floor.

The stand is thirty-seven inches high to the tops of the tailored handles. When not in use, it folds flat and can be hung from a hook in a closet, or it will double for a smart looking hostess cart. The satiny natural aluminum finish is etched and lacquered to prevent oxidation and

(Concluded from preceding page)

much of her time. She has a lovely home, just filled with magnificent plants, vines and African violets, and I know from my own experience how much time they alone take. And of course her "job" as editor involves no pay whatsoever for services rendered, and is strictly "honorary."

When I asked her why, she said simply, "I love my work, the people I meet through the Society, and the joy that the magazine brings to others."

So I guess that explains it. I can also add that when the final work is done and the first copy of the magazine comes off the press, complete and bound with the most imaginative cover your editor can dream up, there is a very rewarding feeling.

I thought you, as a reader, might be interested to know how your magazine is actually put together, and the various stages it goes through before the mailman delivers it to your door. So this is straight across the desk to you. And now I must get back to my work, for you will be looking for your issue in March, and if I don't help Alma soon she might start screaming. This isn't too far-fetched, for it has happened!

THE END



it cannot rust or tarnish. All finishes are easily cleaned with a damp cloth. Natural aluminum model is \$12.95 postpaid. It is also available in decorated baked enamel finishes in Flame Red, Leaf Green or Ebony with hardwood handles at \$15.95 postpaid. Mail your order to the House Plant Corner, Box 810, Mundelein, Illinois.

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QUESTION BOX



LOIS MINEHAN

29 Circuit Drive

Binghamton, N. Y.

For those of you that have been having trouble with Frosty and Wintergreen keeping the cream color in their foliage, I know that you will be interested in the following answers and comments that were sent in in answer to Mrs. B. F. Smith, Fairborn, Ohio.

Last spring I had a lovely plant of Frosty given to me. At that time I was using a plant food that contained ten per cent nitrogen -- higher than some plant foods. Frosty was fed along with the others. To my dismay, the outer leaves became all green in a few days. Frosty has had no more nitrogen and all the new growth is coming in variegated as should be, and the green leaves are gradually getting lighter. Could it be that these variegated varieties need less nitrogen -- or no plant food? I also have Wintergreen and have been feeding them because they are babies. They are getting greener but do show the chartreuse markings. I will gradually give less food as they mature. Mine are also under lights, as is Frosty.

Mrs. Arthur N. Bostwick, Port Huron, Mich.

I had both Frosty and Wintergreen, and they both turned green. One day when I went out to Mr. Anderson of Tonkadale Greenhouse, I asked him, and his answer was to take them out from under fluorescent light and put them in an east window, and they will get white again. I tried it and mine are coming back to white again.

Mrs. Lena Kruger, St. Paul, Minn.

I had a lovely variegated duPont for over four years. I found an east window was the best. It wanted good light but not too strong. This summer I was presented a gift plant -- a sport of Azure Beauty with beautiful variegated foliage. Ivory, light green and dark green in marbled effect. I fed it the same kind of plant food it had been used to. However, I placed it in a west window. It immediately began getting red backed leaves which were beautiful but the ivory in the leaves disappeared, leaving only light green and dark green. I did not like this so immediately moved it to an east window hoping to restore the lighter leaves. The red backs of the leaves disappeared after three months. The leaves are lighter and appear more variegated. It is my belief that variegated plants must have light but the afternoon sun is too strong. Therefore, I also believe that fluorescent lights are much too strong for this type of foliage. I have seen Frosty do all right in a north window. Foliar feeding may not be right, either, for variegated foliage.

Mrs. Edith Lundberg, LaSalle, Ill.

Last fall I received a small plant of Wintergreen from the Violet Treasure House. This suggestion from Mrs. Hartenbower accompanied it. "Give good strong light for variegation (even strong fluorescent light will not maintain variegation -- it takes strong daylight)." This plant was all green. I put it in a west window, using a thin curtain in the afternoon to dilute the sunlight. It is now beginning to show some variegation, as also does Frosty. Two leaves of Wintergreen which were broken in shipping are putting up cream colored plantlets. I have them in a south window where they get undiluted sunlight twice a day. However, a porch cuts off the strongest sunlight. I have always wanted a variegated plant so I do hope this will keep them that way.

Mrs. O. A. Ashby, Henson, Ky.

So glad to note in your last Question Box that I'm not the only one with variegated leaf problems. Certainly light is a big factor, for I put my plants of Frosty Nite and Frosty Morn in a south window where they all but burn and the creamy centers are gradually returning. I just learned that this type should have little or no fertilizer to keep their variegation, and up to now mine have had the same treatment as my other violets. I guess I'll have to weaken them up and try again.

Mrs. Kenneth Stabler, LaCanada, Calif.

Here is another suggestion that was sent in, and you can experiment with it if you are the experimenting type. The writer did not want her name disclosed at this time as she is only experimenting and does not have the final results. "My Frosty was changing to solid green and I placed it under fluorescent lights and it came back to the variegated way it was supposed to be. My Frosty Morn has turned solid green. I have heard that by feeding them with sugar water occasionally it keeps the variegation in the foliage. I intend to experiment and when I learn the correct amount that seems to do what is needed I will let you know." Note: If any of you try this experiment and have good results, please let the Question Box know about it.

To Mrs. Herbert Bantz, Des Plaines, Ill.

Bunched Girl Leaf plants -- I have raised many varieties of Girl leaved plants and had this trouble with only one or two varieties. I notice that Girl leaved plants do much better when the light is not too strong, as the leaves seem to burn easier than some other varieties. I had a plant recently, one of my seedlings, which produced a lot of leaves in the crown. I simply

removed two layers of leaves on the outer side and gave the others more room. That was about six weeks ago. The next row of leaves stretched out toward the rim of the pot and the rest did, too, so now I have a plant that is very well shaped. I do not believe in removing leaves from the crown. It not only spoils the looks of the plant but sacrifices the bloom that would be produced by these leaves.

Mrs. Edith Lundberg, LaSalle, Ill.

To Gertrude Laudolt, Trenton, N. J.

Drying Buds on Red Girl -- Does the grower of Red Girl with the drying buds smoke? I accidentally blew some smoke at a budding plant of Frieda one time with dire results. How about trying a little ventilation from an open window in another room.

Curling leaves -- Your problem of curling leaves sounds like broad mite, except for the exceptional stiffness. I had a plant of Bronze Girl a couple of years ago that produced beautiful foliage -- very dark with curled downward edges. It bloomed well and grew at a normal rate but finally someone informed me that mites were responsible for its beauty.

Mrs. Kenneth Stabler, LaCanada, Calif.

To Mrs. Lyle Schulty, Washington, Iowa

Sailor Girl -- Her description of Sailor Girl is exactly like mine. I bought the plant three years ago with that name. I have grown several plants from it and they all prove true. They do not even change color of the leaves or flower. I have been wondering if it might be possible that some confuse Sailor Girl with another Girl foliage plant. Anyway, Mrs. Schulty has one person in common with her; the plants sound identical. I have grown these out of doors in a cool spot, spraying them well when I bring them in or repot them, and they stay the same. Once in a while a visitor will say, "Oh, that's not Sailor Girl." Then I just smile and say, "That's what I bought it for, and so it stays." I use Feralon as my plant food and find an improvement in the blooms, especially since I have changed to Feralon. Another hint I find worth mentioning is to use plenty of charcoal in soil where water softener is in water. It has benefitted my plants a lot.

Mrs. Clark Moore, Sycamore, Ohio

Q: I have carefully read a number of copies of the African Violet Magazine and have found the answer to almost every question except the following one: After leaves have been cut from plants for rooting, should the leaves be left in

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the air for several hours so that the cut end of the stem will dry up enough to stop bleeding?

Harold O. Stewart, Rochester, N. Y.

A: From lectures and comments I find that the majority of people believe that leaving the leaf in the air for a few hours dries or cures it and that it will root faster with less chance of rotting.

Q: Quite some time ago I noticed in the Registration list a violet called "Melissa." I have never seen it mentioned since. Could someone tell me if there is such a named plant, and if so where I could purchase it?

Mrs. Melissa Richards, Philadelphia, Pa.

A: Probably this is the name of someone's seedling. If any reader knows of such a plant now in existence please drop me a card, so that I can let Mrs. Richards know.

Q: Quite a number of my plants have been puzzling and worrying me this past summer. They are slow, leaves rather small for the variety, blooms scarce and in general not up to scratch. I've even lost several very good violets. I have over two hundred plants and buy from a famous Saintpaulia grower -- using the same certified African violet soil they use themselves. This soil is sterilized for the control of nematodes, etc. However, on watering these plants I

find white, thread-like worms in the saucer. Anywhere from one-sixteenth to one-fourth inch in length and, as I said, threadlike. They are very lively and naturally I've been trying everything to kill the little demons. I've saturated the soil with Lindane, Chlordane, lime-water, NNOR, Soilene and Black Leaf 40. Still they appear. Even treating the worms in the water does not seem to do anything, they squirm and twist -- after several days they die, but frankly I believe the real cause of their demise is from drowning. Since they are quite visible to the naked eye, I do not believe they are nematodes -- if not, what are they? Where do they come from, and how do I get rid of them? I feel sure they are the cause of the unhealthy growing in my violets. All my plants are in this same soil, and it certainly makes me uneasy.

Mrs. Vera Keith, Altoona, Pa.

A: These lively little worms sound like Springtails to me, but Springtails are not supposed to cause any trouble to your plants. Springtails seem to thrive in a damp saucer -- also in the summer when it is damp and humid. A teaspoon of household ammonia to a quart of water should clear them up. Do you ever let your violets get real dry? This seems to discourage them as far as I am concerned. Perhaps some reader thinks

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that this pest is something else. If so, please let us know what you think it is.

Q: I am wondering if there is a course of training one can take sponsored by the National Society. I live too far away from any clubs. Are there people whom one may contact through correspondence that are qualified to give instructive information? Also I have been using NNOR for a spray and it seems to burn the flowers, although it does not seem to hurt the foliage.

Mrs. Dorothy Joern, Loretta, Wisc.

A: Why not write to your State University and Agricultural College for information? I have found Optox to be a good spray. If sprayed on a dull day the blossoms do not seem to spot. Why not spray when the plants are forming buds, and then wait until they have stopped blooming. I am sending you a few names of people that I know in Wisconsin that I am sure will be glad to help you with your problems. Also why not join a Homing Pigeon, and the other nine in your group

certainly have some informative news that you will be interested in.

Q: I am growing my violets under fluorescent light, and suddenly I find that the edges of my leaves are turning brown and dryish looking. I fine-spray them slightly every day. I think there is enough moisture. I have noticed this condition since the furnace has been on. I also noticed several house flies sitting on my plants. Do you think they could be chewing at the leaves? I am enclosing a leaf. I now have this on about ten plants. It will happen more towards the center leaves -- still there seems to be nothing wrong with the entire plant. The rest of the injured leaf is just as firm as can be.

Robert Veverka, Cleveland, Ohio

A: It sounds as though the fine spray every day might be the cause as your leaves may be burned on the edge. Why not try spraying them nights after you have turned the lights off? Also, how far away are your plants from the fluorescent lights? This could have some bear-

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ing also. I never have noticed house flies that would chew a leaf but I have known of cases where little black beetles will chew the leaves. Does anyone have any other suggestions?

Q: I received a leaf of Lady Priscilla from a lady last summer. Now I have a healthy little plant. She says her old plant bloomed yellow. Now I would like to know if there is such a plant in existence and is it yellow? I have seen Yellow Brown Girl and wouldn't call it yellow.

Mrs. Harold Endline, Auburn, Mich.

A: I have never heard of this variety nor of a yellow violet. All you can do is to wait to see what color blossoms your little plant will have. Perhaps some reader has heard of this variety and can tell you what color to expect.

Q: I am interested in obtaining information on Double Pink African violet varieties. Could you send me information or names and addresses of growers who sell leaves or small plants of this type?

Mrs. Leo Breirather, Sheboygan, Wisc.

A: Most of the growers will release their Double Pinks in the spring of 1955. If you will watch your African Violet Magazine you will be able to see when they will be ready for market. Their ads should also mention if they sell leaves or small plants, and also if they will ship them.

Q: I have a question in regard to the lighter flowered and foliated plants. It seems that plants such as Pink Beauty, Portland Rose, and Christmas Star will do very nicely for me for a time, then will turn very pale green in the center leaves. Can this be the start of Cyclamen mite, (I spray my plants with Optox regularly), too much light, a fertilizing problem or what? People laugh when I tell them that I have over seventy-five varieties but cannot grow Pink Beauty successfully. Any ideas?

Mrs. Kenneth Stabler, LaCanada, Calif.

A: It sounds like too much light. Try Christmas Star and Portland Rose in an east window and try Pink Beauty in a north window.

Q: I seem to have a problem with some of my young plants. I have been growing violets for over two years now and have had the same difficulty many times. My young plants grow and begin to get about two inches high and the tiny growing point dries up and turns brown. The outer leaves seem to be healthy. I don't believe it is caused by a bug of any kind as I have sprayed. It must be something in my growing conditions. Is it lack of humidity, insufficient water? My plants are grown on a window sill although I have moved and changed my location. I have no gas. Another problem I have is getting my leaves to grow to any size. I have tried to use different kinds of fertilizers in order to find the best one. I realize that my growing conditions are far from ideal but I must use what I have. I do enjoy my violets very much and should find much more pleasure in them if I could become better at growing them. Can you make any suggestions?

Mrs. Madeline Kellington, Toronto, Can.

A: For your first problem -- perhaps you are setting the crown of the little plant too far down in the pot and the water settles in the crown. Also when you spray are you sure that the droplets of the spray do not collect in the crown and burn the tiny new leaves?

For your second problem -- if your leaves stay small it could be caused from too much direct sunlight. If they are on the windowsill try putting them on a table a little distance from the sill. Also when you apply fertilizer read the contents and find the one with the most nitrogen and use this for awhile, as this should make your leaves larger. You didn't mention what exposure your windows were. North windows will give you larger foliage while the south and west with bright sunlight will make the leaves smaller.

THE END



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THE WEATHER WAS HOT

Margaret Booth, Pittsburgh, Penna.

Here in Western Pennsylvania last summer, the weather was hot, muggy, and "breathless." In my small hobby greenhouse it was difficult to keep the air in motion and it lay over the violets like a hot blanket. My plants were suffering terribly, and so was I along with them.

My basement was cool, but had insufficient light in it for plants. Having one large fluorescent light fixture I decided to put it in the basement and place some of my violets there. I thought that I would move them in the fall as it would be too cold for them in the winter. The temperature in the basement varies from fifty-eight degrees to sixty-two degrees in winter; in summer it goes up to seventy-five degrees on real warm days.

My violets in the basement began to "perk up." The older, larger ones were slower in recuperating and never were as successful in recovery as the young plants, which just came right along. When fall came they were doing so well I hated to move them so I decided to leave them in the basement and see what would happen.

They continued to thrive. They have not grown as fast or bloomed as profusely as those in the house and greenhouse but they are sturdier plants with beautiful foliage. The foliage on some is almost black.

As they began to crowd each other I decided to bring some up into the greenhouse, where the temperature ranged from seventy-two degrees to ninety degrees depending on the sunshine along with the furnace heat. Some others I put into the dining room where the temperature was fairly constant at seventy-two degrees. After a few days those in the greenhouse began to look listless but those in the house were doing all right. I took the plants out of the house and put them in the greenhouse where they continued to thrive. The ones in the greenhouse were put back into the basement but it took them quite a while to recover.

Now when I bring plants up from the basement they are left in the house for a while before they are placed in the greenhouse and I'm wondering if the change in temperature wasn't too great and too sudden from basement to greenhouse for those first plants. It would seem so to me.

I had never been too successful in raising white varieties under lights with the normal temperature, but in the basement at the present time I have White Neptune and Mottled Blue and White with much darker foliage than I have seen



on those plants anywhere. An Innocence which has naturally darker green foliage is almost a black green.

The plants grown in the basement are placed on a table under the fluorescent light at a distance of eight to ten inches and then dropped lower as they grow. The light is twenty-four inches from the top of the table, the plants are placed on tin cans or anything that will place them any distance you may want from the light. They do not require as much water as they would in a greenhouse or house. In the summer my basement has enough humidity naturally. In the winter with the furnace in operation I just wet down the cement floor occasionally.

By the way, later last summer after I had moved some of my plants out of the greenhouse I tried turning on an electric fan in the greenhouse in the afternoon with good success as far as the violets were concerned. The fan is placed on the floor and faced so that the air moves above the plants and not directly on them. I have about four hundred plants and enjoy every minute of the time I spend with them. And I am always interested in trying something different.

THE END

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BUNKER HILL, INDIANA

Here on Long Island (New York), we have an African Violet Society now. In a few short months it has grown from a little group of nine fanciers to a full-fledged organization of sixty-seven charter members. It took a lot of time and effort to make our dream come true, but once we began the pieces fell into place rapidly.

It all started last May when Clare Kosel, Hadie Bunce, Lillian Lechterman, Bea Sherman and I met in the home of Ruth Wyckoff to discuss the possibility of forming a Long Island Chapter. There were questions aplenty to start with. What would we name our group? Where would we meet? How many others would be interested in our Chapter? To get the answers we sent out postcards to all National Society members living on Long Island. Thirty-five enthusiastic replies were received, and we were on our way.

By July, we were ready for our second meeting. It was at this time that Ed and Helen Ebert and Mildred Koster joined our forces. We found a place to meet -- in the Freeport Memorial Library, but membership would have to be limited to seventy-five persons. Ruth was chosen temporary chairman, while Lillian and Mildred were named secretary and treasurer. We decided to call ourselves the Long Island African Violet Society. Thus we had a place to meet, a name for our group and a prospective membership list. The next step was a constitution, which Ed volunteered to draft for us.

In August we held our third meeting. Ed's constitution was approved and adopted. In addition, we elected permanent officers. Ruth was named president, Ed was chosen first vice president, and I was named second vice president. Other officers included Mildred as treasurer; Lillian Lechterman as recording secretary and Hadie Bunce as historian. Bea Sherman was elected corresponding secretary, but she subsequently dropped out for personal reasons. Helen Dickerhoff was elected in her place at a later meeting. Clare Kosel and Helen Ebert were named directors.

LONG ISLAND SOCIETY

Mrs. J. Richard Shaner

Chairman, Publicity Committee

With the preliminaries over, all we needed was the official blessing of the National Society. This came through on September 1, and the Long Island African Violet Society formally became an Affiliated Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. We had reached our goal! Our first open meeting was held on September 27, and this provided all of us with a big thrill, for more than seventy persons attended. Almost half of them signed up for membership immediately!

We are three months old and sixty-seven strong now. We have a violet growing contest underway, have had a "little show" of violets already, and have begun discussion of plans for a big membership show next summer.

In the growing contest, each member, for an entry fee of twenty-five cents, received a leaf of Blue Eyed Beauty and a pot. The leaves were donated by Helen Ebert from her own collection. Next September either the plant or the pot must be presented to the chapter, together with a record of what happened. Prizes, which have not been determined as yet, will be awarded to the best plant or plants at that time.

The "little show" took place in November, as an interesting sidelight to our regular meeting. A display of African violets was set up in the Freeport Memorial Library and remained there for a week. The violets came from the collections of our members and were exhibited in an attractive fluorescent-lighted case which my husband and I designed and constructed. The library custodian, who watered and tended the display

(Cont. to bottom of next page)



Officers of the newly-formed Long Island African Violet Society were elected at a recent meeting. In the first row, left to right, they are as follows: Mrs. Edward Ebert, Jr., a director; Mrs. Oliver A. Wyckoff, Jr., president; Mrs. J. Richard Shaner, second vice president; Mrs. J. Franklin Dickerhoff, corresponding secretary. Second row, left to right, Mrs. George H. Kosel, a director; Mrs. Herman Kosta, Jr., treasurer; Mr. Edward Ebert, Jr., first vice president, and Miss Lillian Lechterman, recording secretary.

It's More Fun With A Record

Leonard K. Brewer, Wyandotte, Michigan

Have you ever gazed upon some of your most interesting seedlings and wondered just what their parents were? Or have you ever wondered exactly when you planted them and when they first germinated?

The answers to those questions will be supplied if you keep a simple, but exact, record of your crosses. Here is the method I follow and one that adds much more interest to hybridization.

I have prepared a number of sheets, all containing the following items and bound them in a book that I keep in my violet room:

Parent Plant:
Crossed with:
Date:
Seed Pod Ripened:
Date Planted:
Soil Mixture:
First Germination:

Each page is numbered consecutively, and the amount of pages depends on how extensively you hybridize. I have a nice fat book! When I am sure that a cross is successful, I enter the information in my book and tie a little tag on to the cross bearing the correct number. In order to save myself many erasures, I keep a separate notation of when I make a cross and the date. If it is not successful, it is never entered, naturally.

Since we all keep a close check on our seed pods, determining the exact day they ripen is

never any problem. Sometimes I let my pods dry for a week or two, depending on the appearance of them.

After germination there are many interesting things to note about the seedlings. I always note when I transplant them into individual pots, and if there are not too many seedlings, always write down the number. The first show of bud is always a big event, and one you will find exciting to enter in your records. You will soon discover many items of interest to you that you will want to remember, and you cannot keep them in your mind indefinitely. Keep a record of them!

When the plants begin to bloom, you will find your own method of cataloging the plants. For a ready reference I make columns on the page somewhat in this manner:

Boy-Blue, Girl-Blue, Girl-Purple, Boy-Orchid, Girl-Orchid. That covers most of the various blooms that will result. However, if you are using one of the novelties for either parent, you may want to make a special indication, such as: Boy-Ruffled Blue, and so on down the line.

Your record book will also provide a valuable source of information in the future. You may save yourself many duplicate crosses by referring to it. You will also gain much pleasure by reading through it and weighing one cross against another. It is impossible to keep the minute details you will soon be writing down without proper records.

Perhaps some of these suggestions will enable you to work out your own method. I hope so. But whatever system you choose, just remember -- It's More Fun With A Record!

THE END

(Cont. from preceding page)

with extraordinary zeal, reported that it had attracted much attention during the week.

Our thoughts about the future are optimistic indeed. Our plans for the membership show next June are still in the formative stage, but we expect to work out all of the details over the next few months. Everybody is enthusiastic about it, so it should be an outstanding affair. We are also looking forward to our regular meetings and to adding to their success. Ruth has appointed a number of committees, the chairmen of which are as follows: program, Robert B. Hopkins; membership, Thomas J. B. Spencer; reception host, W. J. Curry; reception hostess, Mrs. Charles Young; and publicity, myself. We hope that our next report will contain all of the details of the June show, and a lot more progress.

In some small way we hope that our experiences of the last few months will inspire other groups to act upon their dreams.

THE END

HELP -- LOST MEMBERS

We do not have a complete address for these members:

Ruth M. Andrews, Check on the National City Bank, of Cleveland; Mrs. Mary Buchosky, 17591 Matthews; Check on the 1st National Bank of Albemarle, N. C., sent to us by Mrs. Earl Mutchner. No name or address.

These addresses will not reach the following members:

Virginia O. Morrison, 39 Union Ave., Old Orchard Beach, Maine; Mrs. Mark Smith, 421 Mudd Ave., Lafayette, Pa.; Mrs. Frank Spiekerman, P. O. Box 392, Greenwich, Conn.; Mrs. Tressie Larkins, 1813 16th Ave., Forest Grove, Oregon; Mrs. Walter A. Sisenberg, 1411 8th Ave., N., Rochester, Minn.; Mrs. S. W. Creswell, 525 W. 9th, Claremont, Calif.

	ALICE DUMON	DOROTHY GRAY	JENNIE SPOUTZ	HAROLD F. THOMPSON
FOR BEGINNERS	Pink Boy Snow Prince Sailor Girl Lavender Beauty Amethyst	Pink Attraction Snow Prince Sailor Girl Blue Boy Double Neptune Red King	Shocking Pink Snow Prince Sailor Girl Lavender Beauty Double Neptune Bronze Bicolor	Pink Cheer Snow Prince Orchid Wonder Blue Boy Double Neptune Orchid Sunset
FOR FOLKS PAST THE BEGINNING STAGE	Purple Knight Pink Cheer Purity Blue Treasure Bronze Bicolor Blue Moon Tinted Girl	Ionantha Innocence Fantasy Bicolor Sailor's Delight Velvet Girl	Shocking Pink Snow Prince Double Neptune Lavender Beauty Sailor Girl Velvet Girl	Marine Snow Lace Double Delight Gibson Girl Pacific Prince Painted Girl
FOR CONNOISSEURS (no regard to price)	White Madonna Star Sapphire Pink Wonder Blue Warrior Supreme Ruffled Queen Fantasy Supreme	White Madonna Brussels Sprouts Pink Cheer or All Aglow Evening Sunset Fleur Petite Baby Doll	Snow Prince Lavender Beauty Pink Wonder Double Neptune Ruffled Queen Geneva Beauty	White Madonna Brussels Sprouts All Aglow Autumn Fleur Petite Scooped Beauty

EXPERTS CHOOSE AFRICAN VIOLETS

Izabel Zucker, Detroit Times Garden Editor

Today we have an unusual treat for all African violet lovers -- a symposium, or collection of opinions from five experts. Their names: Alice Dumon, Dorothy Gray, Arthur Marsh, Jennie Spoutz and the Rev. Harold F. Thompson.

Mrs. Dumon, Mrs. Spoutz, and Mr. Marsh are commercial growers of violets by the thousands. Mrs. Gray, president of the Border Cities African Violet Club, owns eight hundred plants which fill the windowsills of five rooms. The Rev. Mr. Thompson is the sweepstakes winner and national award winner of Detroit's first African violet show held last year.

3 Main Classes

In asking for their opinions, I had in mind assisting three classes of African violet enthusiasts. First the beginners, next the folks who are past that stage but not yet experts, third the connoisseurs. Connoisseurs are not the same as collectors, for collectors want one plant each of as many varieties as possible, while connoisseurs want the very best in each class.

The task I asked of each consultant was to select six varieties of African violets for each of these three classes of enthusiasts -- and to give the reasons for their choice.

Prices Considered

Not only that, but I asked that price be taken into consideration in selecting varieties for beginners and those past the beginning stage, but that no attention be paid to price when choosing for connoisseurs. Elsewhere on this page you'll find their lists, but here I'm going to tell you the basis on which selection is made.

Mrs. Dumon stresses that all her selections for beginners are "reasonably priced, bloom very well, have pretty foliage and are easy to grow -- something to make the beginner quite proud and anxious to start off on newer varieties."

Mrs. Gray says that she would "select six varieties that have proved to be the easiest to be successful with, in spite of a beginner's practices which sometimes amount to abuse; also those most floriferous. She declares:

I would endeavor also to choose those which would give a beginner as much difference between the various ones as possible, to give him a taste of the thrill of comparing colors, foliage and growing habits."

Last she stresses availability almost anywhere.

Mrs. Spoutz says of her beginners' list, "they represent every color plus the best dark-colored kind -- it's a double, too. All are easy to grow and bloom, all can be bought for about \$1 each."

Advice to Beginners

Mr. Marsh, who declined to select varieties, gives this advice to beginners:

"Single crown or 'open' plants are easier to take care of. They also bloom better the second year -- and much, much better the third year. Beginners never select this type of their own accord and are very reluctant to try in place of a bushy plant with a few more blossoms."

Mr. Thompson explains his first list by saying that "all varieties are easy to obtain and will,

in a large measure, overlook the mistakes of beginners."

Mrs. Dumon considers the plants in her second group "outstanding in color, blooming habit and foliage." Mrs. Gray bases her selections on the supposition that collections would be enlarged, so "starting" varieties must be taken into consideration."

Repeats Selections

Mrs. Spoutz repeats her first varieties even for more advanced enthusiasts but substitutes Velvet Girl for Bronze Bicolor. She says "we would still take the single-flowered Snow Prince against the brand new double-flowered White Madonna."

Mrs. Spoutz says:

"A connoisseur wants the best and 'best' should include ease of culture plus outstanding features in flower and foliage. Plants should be strong, but not at the expense of the flowering habit."

She selects this collection as "limited" to six varieties.

Mr. Thompson, in explaining his selections for this group, as well as for every group of violet enthusiasts, says:

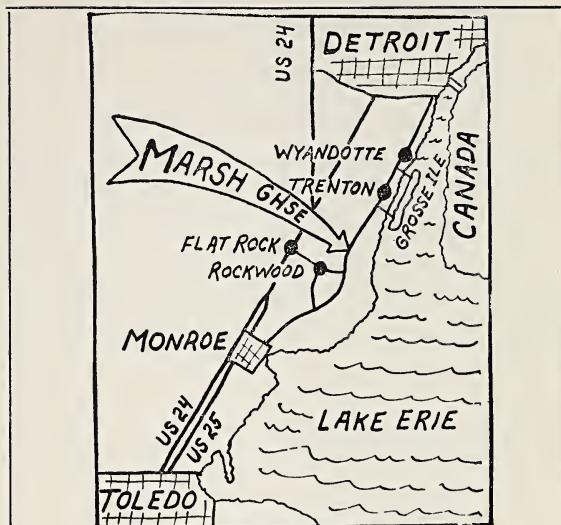
"I am writing from the standpoint of my own preferences; first of all to have blooms on a plant and as many of them as possible; secondly leaf pattern. I simply do not have the patience to fool around with varieties that do not bloom. After these two characteristics come shape of plant, then coloring of leaves and blossoms."

Unanimous Choice

Snow Prince is the unanimous choice for a white-flowered variety for beginners. Blue Boy and Lavender Beauty appear on two lists, Sailor Girl and Double Neptune on three. Certainly such unanimity means that these suggestions for beginners are fool-proof.

As might be expected, opinions vary more in the second group of varieties, those for folks past the beginning stage. But even here, Velvet Girl appears on two lists, Pink Cheer on Mrs. Dumon's duplicates Pink Cheer on Mr. Thompson's beginners' list.

In group 3, varieties for connoisseurs, it is amazing that there are still duplicate recommendations. After all, there are thousands of African violet varieties in existence.



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HERE, Even The
YOUNG SPROUTS

Signed: (leaves) Too.

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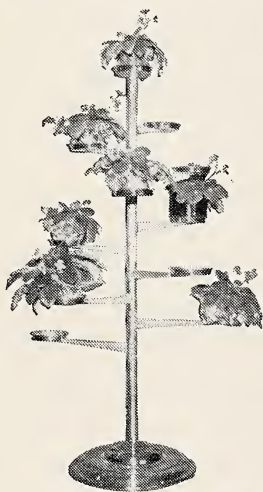
Stella Lavengood, Hillside, Ill.

My Double Margaret never bloomed. Although it was loaded with buds, they seemed to just wilt on the stems. I watered and fussed, but nothing ever happened.

Then one day I put the pot on moist sand. I continued to keep the sand wet, and now my lovely plant is just loaded with bloom and with buds that will open. Have you tried this, if you have the same trouble?

THE END

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Mrs. Witte Allen

Courtesy Kansas City Star

Everyone has dreams. In fact if our day-dreams were taken from us life would become very humdrum and monotonous.

In 1938 Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Rose, 559 Evanston Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, began to realize their dream come true by starting their first greenhouse. Their hobby then was the collection of cactus of which they had over one thousand, one hundred varieties. Now after fifteen years the greenhouse area covers over three thousand square feet.

Gift Multiplies

In 1948 Mrs. Rose's daughter, Mrs. John Womack, gave her an African violet for a birthday gift. Interest mounted and the culture of African violets began. The collection has increased to over twenty-five thousand plants in the last five years.

Mrs. Rose has her own private collection of over five hundred varieties.

A little over two years ago Mrs. Rose started hybridizing her own plants. In other words she started growing plants from seed and crossing them. It is very interesting to watch the development of a seed to a fully developed plant. It takes almost a year to produce a healthy blooming plant.

Quite a number of the plants that Mrs. Rose hybridized have been named for her daughter and her grandchildren and have been registered with the National African Violet Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Rose are members of the Kansas City African Violet Society, National African Violet Society and Missouri African Violet Society at Marshall, Missouri.

In the busy season as many as one hundred people a week view Mrs. Rose's private collection.

Visitors From All Over

People from all over the United States and Canada have been to see their violets, and each one has registered.

Mr. and Mrs. Rose have done quite a bit of traveling since going into the violet business. They have purchased violets in Ohio, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Michigan and Indiana.

Mr. Rose retired from the post office in 1948 and then turned this into a profitable business.

In the last two years Mr. and Mrs. Rose have added quite a few tropical plants to their collection. They are also taking colored pictures of their most rare and beautiful plants.

THE END

It Could Happen To You!

Evelyn Nienstadt, San Francisco, California

Like many another person interested in African violets, I was patiently waiting for a local society to be formed in San Francisco. Never for a moment did I realize that I would in any way be responsible for its formation!

My husband had given me a Blue Boy at Christmas . . . the normal and natural steps occurred in proper sequence, and I found that I had been bitten by the "violet" bug but good! Some time later a newspaper announcement that a "violet" show was to be held at a nearby nursery was most welcome news. By then my interest was growing by leaps and bounds and it was my first violet show! The many plants, the different kinds of foliage and the many shades of blossoms were intriguing, and of course I ordered some right then and there. I learned about the National Society, received a membership for my birthday and read everything I could find on violets. This was the beginning of my collecting, and also, I am sure, the beginning of the African Violet Society of San Francisco. For it was then that I met Mrs. Constance Hansen, now a commercial grower, and Miss Marnie Yarrington, then president of the African Violet Society of the East Bay! With their encouragement and enthusiasm and armed with a list of names of many other San Francisco violet fanciers, I was launching a local society.

The first get-together was held at my home on February 19, 1953, with eight "members" present. We organized in March and decided to meet in our homes for the present; I was elected president, and with seventeen charter members, we became affiliated with the National Society. At the age of six months, we entered the annual two-day San Francisco flower show at the City Hall! It was a great success and created so much interest that the resultant increase in membership necessitated our rental of a meeting hall.

Many wonderful friendships have been formed; we are now a definitely recognized society among the other floral groups in this area; we have been a part of two flower shows. The second show was, again, the annual two-day San Francisco flower show at the City Hall. Of the three floral societies competing in the educational section, the African Violet Society of San Francisco won the blue ribbon! We also made a very fine showing in the Saintpaulia competitive section and again have a list of names of people who are interested in joining our group.

At the close of this year we will have been in office for twenty-two months; we are growing steadily, creating interest in African violets, providing educational and entertaining programs, and last, but by no means least, ever widening our circle of friends.

So, you see, it could happen to you!

THE END

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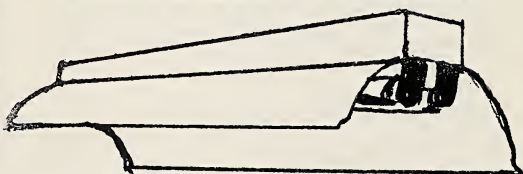
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VISITORS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Mrs. L. R. Varcoe, Bartlesville, Okla.

Since I adopted the violet hobby, I have met more interesting people -- from about half the states in the Union. I imagine my large window, facing the highway and just loaded with violets, has brought many interesting people to my door than I would ever have met any other way. With around two hundred named varieties, all planted in colorful plastic pots, I can select my best for my window, and do the people flock in to see them!

I have grown many of my plants from my own seed, and of these I am especially proud --

for I love growing them from seed, and many of them are especially beautiful. Although I only grow these interesting plants for my own pleasure, showing them off in such an advantageous spot has certainly added to the joy. I now have a guest book for out-of-town visitors to register, and I have names from the east to the west coast, from north to south. And, after all, what could be a better drawing card?"

THE END

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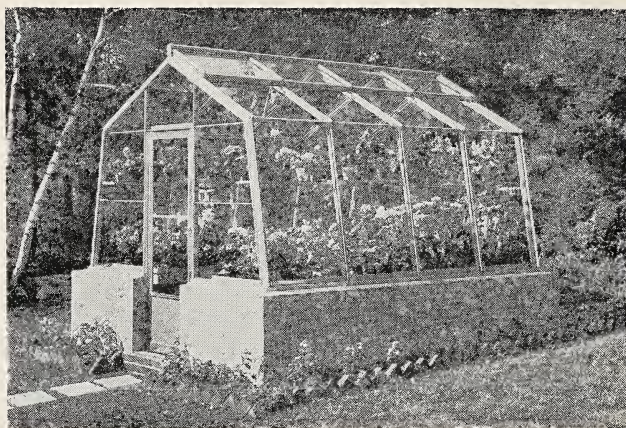
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A REMEDY

Mrs. Leo Spengler, Orlando, Fla.

Perhaps many of you who live in the north do not know it, but our Florida soil is full of root-knot nematodes. This is partly due to the soil never freezing as in the north. We cannot raise tomatoes in the summer time on account of the plants becoming infected. However, last spring we had a couple of tomato plants and I mulched the largest one with a lot of "Cold Smoke," an organic fertilizer that controls cinch bugs, army worms, aphids, thrip, root-knot nematode, and damp off. It is called the miracle plant grower, insecticide, fungicide, and soil conditioner. It will not burn plants. It is manufactured by the Cold Smoke Products Company of 508 Brookhaven Drive, Orlando, Florida. So do not write me about where you can get it. I get nothing from the firm, but I feel many of you would like to know something to control root-knot nematodes. Now back to the tomato plant. It had the nicest tomatoes we ever had in Florida and the plant yielded way down, almost to July. When my husband pulled the plant up it did not have a single knot on the roots. Any other plants that had lived through all the hot weather that this plant did would have been full of knots.

They say if you mulch your plants well with "Cold Smoke," that will control the nematodes. Now I use "Cold Smoke," in my African violet and begonia potting soil. I often mulch the top of the pot with "Cold Smoke," and the plants seem to thrive and bloom under this treatment.

I use none of our garden soil in my potting but do use Florida peat. I always get it from the top of the pile when I go to buy it, as that laying on the bottom would get nematodes from the soil. I think German peat is better than Florida peat, but Florida peat is handy and cheap, and I use a lot of it -- four bushels for one dollar.

I sterilize any builder's sand I use in my pressure cooker, and I buy the sterilized cow manure.

If I had a valuable African violet plant or begonia that had just started to become infected with nematodes, I would mulch the plant well with "Cold Smoke," and if I were repotting it, I would use "Cold Smoke" in the potting soil. Then I would put a large saucer under the plant away from the others not infected with nematode. "Cold Smoke" has an awful tobacco odor, but it does the work well.

THE END

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Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
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Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

On September 14, 1954, members of the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club met at the Webb Barn in Wethersfield at 9 a. m. with entries of African violets for the Third Annual Harvest Exhibit of the Connecticut Horticultural Society. This show was open to the public for two days, September 14 and 15. The African violet exhibit was a highlight of the show, and was judged as a unit, the club winning a "Special Award."

September 14th was also the date for the quarterly meeting of the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club, so from the Webb Barn, members drove to Eastford, Connecticut to visit the greenhouses of Albert A. Buell, who specializes in the growing of both African violets and Gloxinias. Three greenhouses were filled with tempting new varieties of African violets. From Buell's, members met at the General Lyon Inn at Eastford for luncheon, after which the regular quarterly business meeting of the club took place.

On November 9th, the annual luncheon meeting of the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club was held at the Shuttle Meadow Club in New Britain, Connecticut. Officers are elected for two years, so the slate remains as follows:

President,	Mrs. George Stetson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ralph Filson
Secretary,	Mrs. T. Y. Ramsdell
Treasurer,	Mrs. Howard Gilbert

Mrs. George Stetson, vice president of the club, sent to the National Society a Kodachrome slide of her "Springfield Beauty," which was planted in driftwood, for which she received an award.

DAVENPORT IOWA

Chapter One of the Davenport African Violet Society elected the following officers for the year 1955:

President,	Mrs. A. A. Heinkel
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. J. Fries
Secretary,	Miss Lauretta Littig
Treasurer,	W. H. Niemann
Historian,	Mrs. H. E. Ploog

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members.



Left to right, Mrs. J. T. Vester, Mrs. M. J. Silvers, Miss Lucie Williams and Mrs. J. R. Warren.

RALEIGH NORTH CAROLINA

In September, 1954, a small group of people interested in growing African violets met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Warren, with the idea of forming a violet society. After a program of colored slides the group decided to meet again in October.

At the October meeting the group selected the Raleigh African Violet Society of Raleigh, North Carolina, as their name, and decided to affiliate with the National Society.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. J. R. Warren
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. M. J. Silvers
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. R. T. Stephenson
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. J. F. Vester
Treasurer,	Miss Lucie Williams
Historian,	Miss Mabel Jones

Each member made their own year book cover, and Mrs. J. F. Vester won the prize for the best cover.

A group of members carried African violet plants and leaves to the patients at the State Hospital at Butner. This was the first project sponsored by the club, and it proved very successful.

Meetings are held in the homes of the members, and there are fourteen charter members.

SYRACUSE NEW YORK

The African Violet Society of Syracuse, New York, elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Elston K. Herrald
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. A. W. Niesley
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. L. S. Henry
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. E. H. Graves
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Katherine Spense
Treasurer,	Ben Hoag

EVANSTON ILLINOIS

Officers of the Evanston Saintpaulia Club of Evanston, Illinois, are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Merrill Hoefer
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Frederick Diehl
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Paul L. Hoffman
Secretary,	Mrs. Kenneth Gillette
Treasurer,	Mrs. William Powers

The membership is limited to fifteen, and meetings are held in the members' homes on the third Tuesday of the month.

In October a successful guest meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Donald Hansen, the club's first president, who showed colored slides of her violets.

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

The Fantasy Chapter of the African Violet Society of Fort Wayne, Indiana, held their September meeting at the home of Mrs. Bernice Bell. Mr. Robert Schowe of the Cottage Florists gave a talk and demonstration on flower arrangements. Flowers were sold to build a fund for the Polio Emergency drive. The Neptune and Rainbow Chapters were guests and participated.

At the October meeting, held at the home of Mrs. Charles Dailey, a violet flower guessing contest was presented by Mrs. Rita Harnish, and her committee. At the November meeting at the home of Mrs. Rita Harnish, the ways and means committee held a talent sale, followed by a luncheon.

The following are officers of the club.

President,	Mrs. Charles Dailey
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Rita Harnish
Secretary,	Mrs. Iva Moser
Treasurer,	Mrs. Shirley Dibble

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

The Neptune Chapter of the African Violet Society of Fort Wayne, Indiana, elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. A. H. Schonefeld
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Esther Howard
Secretary,	Mrs. I. J. Roy
Treasurer,	Mrs. C. F. Rackeweg

Meetings are held in the morning on the second Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members.

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, Missouri, elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Forrest Hopper
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. E. F. Dunlap
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Fred Walkenhorst
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Cecelia Mick
Treasurer,	W. A. Smithson
Historiar	Mrs. Charles Randall



April Show of the Statesville African Violet Club. One hundred varieties were represented.

STATESVILLE NORTH CAROLINA

The Statesville African Violet Club of Statesville, North Carolina, sponsored its first show on April 13, 1954, at the Sears, Roebuck Mail Order Store. One hundred and fifty violets were entered, representing over one hundred varieties. A propagating display of rooted cuttings and seedlings was of great interest to many. Over four hundred people visited the show, which was non-competitive.

Mrs. Earl Harris, Mrs. E. O. Miller and Mrs. V. B. Reavis were show chairmen.

The Statesville African Violet Club was organized February 5, 1953.

Officers for the club are:

President,	Mrs. Peter Henkel
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. L. Poplin
Secy. & Treasurer,	Mrs. Harry Gilbert

LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY

The African Violet Society of Louisville, Kentucky, Unit 2, met November 18, 1954, for their regular business meeting and election of officers. The following members were elected to serve for the year 1955:

President,	Mrs. J. W. Slack
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. James T. Healy
Secretary,	Mrs. H. W. Miller
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Marvin Ash
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. M. Beetem
Historian,	Mrs. James E. Rodgers

The newly elected officers will be installed and take office in January.

Plans were made for entertaining the African Violet Society, Unit 1, at a Christmas luncheon. This has been a yearly get-together of the two societies since Unit 2 was organized.

ENGLEWOOD COLORADO

The Friendly African Violet Society of Englewood, Colorado, celebrated its second birthday on October 26, 1954.

The Friendly Society and the Crystal Blue Society of Denver entered an exhibit at the Hobby Exposition held in Denver, October 21 through October 24. Several thousand viewed the many varieties of violets which were displayed on long tables.

Newly elected officers are:

President,	Mrs. Glenn Clayton
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harry Sitton
Secretary,	Mrs. Roland Wilson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Loren Hilton

LANSING MICHIGAN

Officers for the year 1955 were elected at the annual meeting of the "Double 10" African Violet Club of Lansing, Michigan, on October 13, 1954, at the home of Mrs. J. B. Roe, Mason, Michigan.

The officers are:

President,	Mrs. Carleton Nicholas
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. O. R. Cooper
Secretary,	Mrs. Clara Smith
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. H. Goldsworthy
Historian,	Mrs. J. B. Roe

These officers will take office in January.

A rather full program was completed this year to carry out the club's aim to stimulate interest in the culture of African violets as a hobby, to stimulate interest in the study and research of scientific developments in propagation methods, and in the production of new and better plants; another aim was to share these interests with others -- the beauty of the plants and any knowledge acquired by us that might bring happiness.

The programs included "Arrangements-Winter Bouquets and Driftwood"; two programs of slides from the National Society; one of "My Helpful Hints"; a summer picnic; Christmas party; and four programs with speakers from Michigan State College.

Meetings are held in the homes of the members, with one or two meetings each year being open to the public.



MUHLENBERG COUNTY KENTUCKY

The First African Violet Society of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, held their November meeting at the home of Mrs. Ishmael Majors, at which time officers for the coming year were elected and these officers will be installed at the December meeting. Officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. Edgar Mitchell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Joe Miller
Secretary,	Mrs. Hobert Boone
Treasurer,	Mrs. Shelby Mercer

At the December meeting the program will be "Christmas Arrangements with African Violets." Meetings are held in the homes of the members on the second Wednesday of each month. The club now has nineteen members.

DENVER COLORADO

The Mile High African Violet Club of Denver, Colorado, held their September meeting at the home of Mrs. R. W. Pierce of Golden, Colorado.

The following officers were elected for the year 1954-1955:

President,	Mrs. R. W. Pierce
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. O'Neil
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. R. Kramer
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Rose Trendler
Treasurer,	LaRue Elder
Librarian,	Lillian Thaete

FARGO NORTH DAKOTA

The Red River Valley Violet Club of Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota, elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. John Doubly
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. William Johnson
Secretary,	Mrs. Fred Christian
Treasurer,	Mrs. C. A. Running

Officers and chairmen of New Jersey Council of African Violet Clubs

Seated left to right, Mrs. Richard Hillman, Central Regional Director, Mrs. Godfrey Zimmerman, Rec. Secy., Mrs. Ernest Blausey, 2nd V. P., Mrs. Thomas Everist, 1st V. P., Mrs. L. D. Connell, Editor of publications and Mrs. Neil Miller, South Regional Director.

Standing, Mrs. E. L. Klotz, Treasurer, Mrs. A. B. Laurence, President, and Mrs. Monte Norcross, Hospitality Chairman.

MARION INDIANA

The Friendly African Violet Club of Marion, Indiana, first was organized in September, 1953. An interested group of twelve ladies met at the home of Mrs. E. H. Walker. Guests for the meeting were Mrs. Clayton Horine and Mrs. Max Smith of Greentown, Indiana. Out of this first meeting grew the constitution and by-laws, officers were elected and the committees appointed. On November 3, 1953, installation of officers was held at the home of Mrs. James A. Meredith. Mrs. Helen Monger of Indianapolis, Indiana, was the installing mistress. Officers installed were:

President,	Mrs. J. A. Meredith
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. E. H. Walker
Secretary,	Mrs. Gerald Coleman
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. P. McMurray
Historian,	Mrs. Maxwell Enyeart

Membership of the club is limited to fifteen, fourteen of whom are members of the National Society.

BAY COUNTY FLORIDA

Early in 1954 the African Violet Society of Bay County, Florida, which includes Parker, Callaway, Lynn Haven, St. Andrew and Panama City, was organized with fourteen charter members. Two new members have been included, and all are members of the National Society.

Officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. J. E. Morelock
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. John C. Williams
Secretary,	Mrs. Glenn Bright
Treasurer,	Mrs. Frank Huebscher
Program Chm.,	Mrs. A. W. Aldridge
Historian,	Mrs. H. M. Felix

BUTLER MISSOURI

The African Violet Club of Butler, Missouri, elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Ludwig Becher
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Walter Berkebile
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Goldie Clark
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Jack Thomure
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wesley Miller
Reporter & Historian,	Mrs. O. J. Crandall

PEORIA ILLINOIS

The Metropolitan African Violet Society of Peoria, Illinois, elected the following officers for the year beginning September 1, 1954:

President,	Mrs. H. P. Mason
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. L. B. Hotchkiss
Secretary,	Mrs. Clyde West
Treasurer,	Mrs. Roy Bliss

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AMSTERDAM NEW YORK

The Mohawk Valley African Violet Society of Amsterdam, New York, a group made up of members within a forty mile radius of this beautiful Mohawk Valley, voted to incorporate. Their Charter and Certificate of Incorporation was received on June 1, 1954, from the state.

Officers for the year 1954-1955 are as follows:

President,	Peter F. Passera
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. W. Ferguson
Rec. & Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Gerald Ryan
Financial Secy.,	Mrs. Harriet Hansen
Treasurer,	Harry Penistan

SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

The Sacramento Saintpaulia Society of Sacramento, California, elected the following officers for 1954:

President,	Mrs. W. F. Rose
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. F. J. Pribble
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. R. E. Hertel
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. W. H. Steinhaus
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. J. Cameron

The Sacramento Society was organized four years ago and the membership has grown to one hundred and twenty-five members. Interesting and informative programs of slides, demonstrations, culture of violets and arranging have been arranged by the officers. A tea and coffee hour follow the meeting.

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RICHMOND VIRGINIA

The Richmond African Violet Club of Richmond, Virginia, feel deeply indebted to the California Spray Chemical Company for a most interesting and informative program. At the October meeting Dr. Mason Reger of Mt. Jackson, Virginia, horticulturist for the company, showed a film entitled "How to Grow Beautiful Violets and Gloxinias," after which he gave the members an opportunity to ask questions.

In November Mr. Ben H. Hill, a Petersburg, Virginia, florist, demonstrated arrangements. Violets and different types of containers and other plant material were used. Perhaps the most beautiful composition consisted of a white violet arranged with white roses and greenery, with a Madonna as an accessory.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a. m. at the Battery Park Club House.

GALENA ILLINOIS

The Galena African Violet Club of Galena, Illinois, elected officers for the year of 1955 at their regular meeting on November 12, 1954. The following officers will assume office in January of 1955:

President,	Mrs. Jessie Nash Strand
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Chris Bahr
Secretary,	Miss Anita Siniger
Treasurer,	Mrs. Carl Schoenhard

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in the members' homes. Membership in the club now totals thirteen, of which seven are members of the National Society.

JACKSON MICHIGAN

The Jackson African Violet Society met at the home of Mrs. Lew Evans, 507 East North Street, on November 9, 1954. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Lisle Goff
Vice President,	Mrs. G. K. Watson
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. B. Baker
Secretary,	Mrs. A. M. Fischer
Historian,	Mrs. Leslie McLaury
Publicity,	Mrs. Ted Schmidt
Cheer,	Mrs. Mildred Thompson

Program: Mrs. Karl Beiswenger, Mrs. Jasper Barker, and Mrs. Albert Lambert.

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African Violet

MAGAZINE

JUNE 1955

VOLUME 8 NUMBER 4

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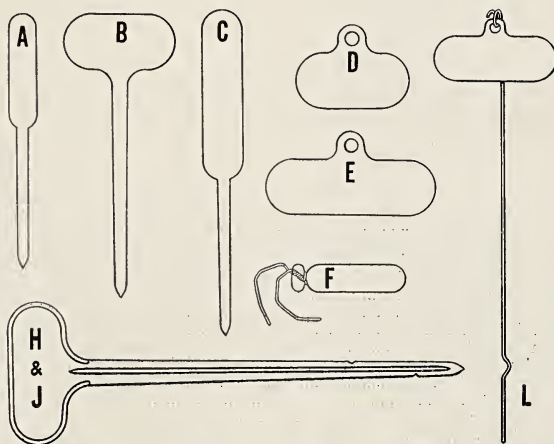
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African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL STAFF

Vol. 8

June 1955

No. 4

FRONT COVER: Lyndon Lyon's "Pink Cloud," from Fischer Greenhouses. Ektachrome by Gottlieb Hampfler.

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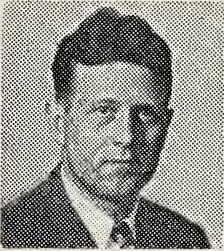
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President's Message

PITTSBURGH will long be remembered as one of our best conventions -- as well as being one of the largest attended! !



IT WAS A SPLENDID MEETING IN EVERY WAY.

Our sincerest thanks go to Mrs. William Douglas, and Mrs. Harness, Co-chairmen. Theirs was a mighty job -- well done! But -- they had excellent help, and by planning and working together for a whole year -- their efforts were fully realized. There is so much that can be said of the convention and its component parts. Much of that will come either in this or the September issue.

Mr. Johnson

As usual -- the Tour was very popular. Plans had to be enlarged to seven buses. One of the highlights of the tour was the Phipps Conservatory. Being right after Easter -- it was surely in its full glory and a most wonderful sight to see. One could have spent hours in there, seeing the many different and colorful floral settings. The Cathedral of Learning was another impressive highlight.

The Pittsburgh Sun-Telegram gave us a great honor by bringing out a Special Edition on Friday, April 15th. Much praise should be given the publicity chairman.

Our good friend, Grace Rowe, has found it necessary to be relieved of the duties as Affiliated Chapters Chairman. She has brought this appointed office to its present high level through hard work, and I know that the success of our many Affiliated Chapters is due to her efforts. Truly -- a million "Thank Yous" does not cover our gratefulness! ! !

Helen Pochurek has been appointed to take over the duties as Affiliated Chapters Chairman, and I am sure that you will find Helen to be a good friend and helper. It would lighten the duties of the Chairman if each individual society would carefully read the instructions and then abide by them. Too often incorrect amounts, or information, are sent in through carelessness, and this involves needless correspondence. Please feel free to call upon Helen for advice regarding matters pertaining to affiliation and renewals.

May I call attention to the following appointed Chairmen? I am sure that every member of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. appreciates the work that they do.

Affiliated Chapters -- Mrs. Frank Pochurek, American Horticultural Council Representative -- Mr. Charles Fischer, Awards -- Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Boyce Edens Memorial -- Mrs. Ralph Berst, Commercial Sales and Exhibits -- Mrs. John Landaker, Convention Time and Place -- Mrs. Robert Wright, Editor of Publications -- Mrs. Robert Wright, Finance -- Mr. William Carter, Nominating -- Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Official Pin -- Miss E. Pearle Turner, Parliamentary -- Mrs. Rene Edmundson, Registration -- Mr. Phil Libby, Research -- Mr. Neil C. Miller, Show Preparation and Judging -- Mrs. James B. Carey, Steering -- Mrs. Martin Wangberg.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Floyd L. Johnson".



Poets Corner

AFTER VACATION

Now that our vacation is over
And my work again is begun,
Please place me where
I can get light from the sun.

But mind you, take all precaution
When sun is too hot,
For you know the harm it does
So often is a lot.

I do good in any window
North, South, East or West
And by your careful and tender care
I am sure I'll do my best.

If one of we varieties, turn pale and wan
you find,
Try me in a different window, if you don't mind;
In no time at all, the results you'll see
When you have just the right light for me.

Mrs. C. M. Perry
Marshall, Mo.

GOING TO THE SHOW

To enter me, (a violet) in a show,
First, I must be a healthy plant, you know;
So I have been selected,
From a group of plants inspected.

I was placed on a shelf,
All alone by myself
And lonely at heart from being apart,
From the beautiful one who gave me my start.

But the best of it all lies,
In trying to win a prize!
So by the help of my mistress turning, watering,
feeding and bathing me as well,
I am going to the show, hoping to return with
a prize and a big story to tell!

Mrs. C. M. Perry
Marshall, Mo.

THE SOIL

I would like to say to each member --
When you have to mix violet soil
You will find it isn't such a toil.
Especially, when you have found
That you have all ingredients around.

Now in mixing our cakes,
We try to make no mistakes
By following a printed direction
Hoping to have cake of perfection.

So now ladies, take heed
That you use only each amount that you need,
Too much of this and not enough of that
Could possibly make your soil firm and flat.

And so, for your violets so grand
I suggest in your mixture you use builder's sand;
Now that you have mixed and sterilized as well
Your favorite soil mixture perhaps you'd tell.

Now when little plants are ready
To be put in a growing medium to steady,
I feel that you'll find

That you have the correct kind;
So in the future months to be
You are sure to have lovely plants to see.

Mrs. C. M. Perry
Marshall, Mo.

PLANT SURGERY

Please listen and take heed
When surgical attention is badly in need;
Shots and anesthetics for an operation?
Oh NO! Not for me, indeed.

So, in removing the suckers
Be sure to see
That you don't cut the stem
Or stalk and injure me.

Thus any operation on me
You find must be performed,
Please do it with all your charm
So that I will receive no harm.

Mrs. C. M. Perry
Marshall, Mo.

AN OLD VARIETY SPEAKS

I know you must possess
We older varieties no doubt,
But we would be pleased to have with us
The new varieties just out.

So dear mistress of we violets,
Now get to looking around
For those newest varieties
That you know have just been found.

Oh! The beauties you've just selected,
Please place us among them too,
So we old and new varieties
Will be a picture, too.

Mrs. C. M. Perry
Marshall, Mo.

ON HYBRIDIZING AN AFRICAN VIOLET

or

SAINTPAULIUS GENETICUS

What plants shall I cross to get double pink,
Or yellow, or bright red? Now just let
me think.

Yes, that's how it starts, and once on the way
You are sunk, my dear friends, that is all I
can say.

Quite carefully now we put pistil to pollen
Then sit back and wait, and if it is swollen
We know we have something, but what we
don't know.

We'll have to imagine, and let our minds go.

Ha! Ha! There's a seed pod, all shrivelled
and bare.

Now gently, my freind, we must handle
with care.

We'll just take it off, and open it so.

There's the seed on white paper (like pepper,
you know).

A dish, some vermiculite dampened and level,
Some sand and a spoon. My hand shakes like
the devil.

We sprinkle it gently and evenly, so

When it sprouts, it will flourish and have room
to grow.

Now everything's done. Fit the lid nice and tight.

Put the dish on the windowsill, where there
is light.

The north side is perfect, for there is no sun
To dry out the medium. Isn't this fun?

Six or seven days pass, and we can't stand
the strain.

We lift the lid once, then we lift it again,
At least once ev'ry day; expecting to see
A little green shoot, standing vibrant, and wee.

At last we are granted a sight to behold:

The tiniest plant, or two, stand clear and bold,

Then several others, and then hundreds more.

How thrilling it is to behold them galore.

Days pass, and with each one a sense of delight
Just to watch the plants grow, so green and
so bright.

Then comes the transplanting, the feeding,
the care,

The watering, guessing, comparing, despair.

If only one seedling just has to be tossed,

We feel so forlorn, thinking "What have
we lost?"

For one thing with seedlings, and this will
hold true,

It may be a winner, or plain as a shoe.

At last, after ages of waiting, so slow,

The buds start to form, and to fatten, then lo

Along comes the flower, so clean and so true,

You can't tell which is blooming, the violet,
or you.

No! We didn't get yellow, or red, bright as ink,
Or the muchly desired and prized double pink.
But one thing we did get, and that in
full measure,

An abundance of work, and excitement,
and pleasure.

So that is the story, with tongue in the cheek

We advise you to try it, if joy you would seek.

If you want to be different, and search for
the prize

Don't go west my friend, but just once --
HYBRIDIZE.

Robert and Frances Nicholson

FOUNDER'S PRESIDENT

Founder's President

On our last meeting day

Read a short poem

Purport to say,

Of many hardships

The Presidents take

But not our President

Could these statements make.

Her masterly manner

Of Roberts Rules of Order,

Presiding with dignity

All friendships will solder

"The Care of Violets"

When the weather is hot

They must be duddled,

If we survive or not.

Our President, like

Burbank is bent

On new varieties

A member spent

A taxi fare

To get her there

To show new shoots starting

On variety rare.

So Mrs. Van Doren

Today we might say,

"Madam President,

You're a Burbank

In a violet way.

With so much charm

And diplomacy shown

You're a super duper President

To Founder's Club known.

Such lovely contacts

Some old and some new,

Make the joy of living

All blossom and new

To all Founder's Club Presidents

May your troubles be few.

Eleanore Grant

— AFRICAN VIOLETS —

HOUSE PLANTS BOTH OLD AND NEW

SUPPLIES — LIST

YOARS HOUSEPLANT NURSERY

BUNKER HILL, INDIANA

THOUGHTS WHILE WASHING DISHES

Once I was young.
I hustled about my kitchen
Doing wifely chores.
Fat, scarlet geraniums
Matched the red cheeks
Of my romping, noisy sons.
Barking, tumbling puppies --
Apples and warm, spicy cookies
Geraniums in the window.
A happy, pleasant kitchen --
Years ago.

Now I am older.
I still like geraniums
Flouting flaming color.
But life now is more quiet.
Little boys, grown up,
Have exchanged bat and ball
For basic training.
Busy puppies are now content
To sleep and only dream of rabbits.
While I have captured
The beauty of jewels
In my collection of violets.
The soft purples, pinks and mauves
Fit the mood of graying hair.
And hands, that would otherwise be restless,
Find comfort in the care
Of these responsive friends.
In this changing life --
Full of fury and uncertainty --
I know how good it is
To have a window full of violets --
A refuge for a troubled mind
In my now still kitchen.

Vera I. Covert

FLOWERS OF FRIENDSHIP

Little flower of friendship
Uniting strangers far and near,
You have brought together friends from
everywhere.
For the treasured beauty of your lovely petals
Is indeed more precious than rare metals;
In rainbow hues -- red, violet, blue and pink,
You make the hearts of those who cannot
grow you -- sink.

Anne Gamble

REDWOOD LEAF MOLD

The needles from our giant Redwood trees composted by Mother Nature. Different than other leaf molds. Richer. Doesn't break down. Also holds moisture longer. Proved best for African violets, orchids, all acid-loving plants. Heat sterilized.

TRIAL BAG -- PREPAID -- \$1.00

KRAUSE'S

AFRICAN VIOLET NURSERY

11823 Christopher Ave.

Inglewood, Calif.

VIOLETITIS

(By the husband of an African violet fancier)

They're in the kitchen, over the sink,
And in front of the windows, one and all;
They're in the bedrooms, everywhere I think,
Wherever I walk, I watch, lest I fall.

They're on the stand, under the fluorescent,
On the floor, and in every available place;
Utilizing all the light, color and incandescent,
For a place to live, we've only left a little space.

Still they keep increasing, fast and furious,
Rooted leaves and seedlings in every corner;
In fact, I'm beginning to be a little curious
As to what we'd do if we had a visit from
Jack Horner.

Pollination and rooting of suckers go on apace,
Blooms open in pot after pot, with evident glee;
There's a trace of impudence on every bright face,
Yet, paradoxically, modest they seem to be.

The back porch is cluttered with soil in cans,
In boxes, some sturdy, some fragile and flimsy;
And of course a varied coterie of plain tin pans --
The result of my wife's momentary whim
or whimsy.

A shelf in the kitchen cabinet reserved
for spices,
Cinnamon, cloves, flavorings, nutmeg or sage;
But now when some strange aroma my
nose entices,
I may find it's only "The Greatest Fertilizer
of the Age."

I ruminate on the habits and customs of
the thrips,
On which my better half occasionally speaks;
I see in my dreams one of the pests doing flips,
And oft' in my nightmares a pesky nematode
squeaks.

Sometimes I hear the rustling of mealy bugs,
Or the mating song of the cyclamen mites;
A million aphids have infested our bedroom,
And are dancing therein in cute little tights.

I awake to the realities of Blue Boy and
Ruffled Treasure,
Spread along the top of my old cedar chest;
And my wife, with a ruler their blossom
to measure,
Arouses me from my night's fitful rest.

This little poem, like Tennyson's brook,
Could keep on going forever and a day;
But I think now I'll go out and have a look,
If the violets need watering, there'll be the
devil to pay.

H. C. Reynolds
Long Beach, Miss.

Important library notice on page 62. Af-
filiated Chapters please read.



Figure 1. Leaves and blossoms of the Crazy Quilt variety, showing dark streaks in blossoms, light green patterns in leaves, and, at lower right, a deformed blossom consisting chiefly of a great cluster of stamens.

CRAZY QUILT, A Virus Disease of AFRICAN VIOLETS

M. B. Linford, Urbana, Ill.

The African violet variety known as Crazy Quilt was first seen by the writer during January, 1954, in the propagation bench of a large commercial grower. All the leaves showed characteristics so similar to symptoms of some known virus diseases of other kinds of plants that they immediately aroused suspicion that they were infected. Examination of blossoming plants of this variety in another house of the same company, followed by observation of similar plants from other sources, indicated that this was the typical condition of the variety. If these were, indeed, the symptoms of a virus disease, then the Crazy Quilt variety owed its most distinctive characteristics to this disease. The serious nature of some virus diseases of other kinds of plants made it appear imperative to determine whether this suspicion was correct and, if so, to learn whether the disease might spread readily enough to be dangerous in a collection of healthy plants.

Experiments described in this paper have proved the presence of a graft-transmissible infection in the Crazy Quilt variety by transmitting this infection to plants of eight varieties. Symptoms of the disease are described and illustrated. Present evidence suggests that this disease does not spread readily from one plant to another and, therefore, that it is not an especially dangerous disease. The writer regards this as a virus disease because of its transmissibility and its symptoms, although he has not obtained all the critical evidence that plant pathologists like to have before concluding that a disease is caused by a virus.

The Crazy Quilt Variety

All leaves and flowers of the Crazy Quilt variety are marked by distinctive color patterns. Some also are deformed either mildly or severely, although most blossoms and, on some plants, all the leaves are essentially normal in form. In



Figure 2. Part of a Crazy Quilt plant, showing a blossom of normal form at extreme left contrasting with various degrees of blossom deformity at center and right.

Figure 3. Leaf deformity shown by a plant of the Crazy Quilt variety. This plant also has developed several growing points, crowding the center.



addition, the entire plant may become deformed by the production of an excessive number of growing points close to the original center of the plant. This results in a very crowded type of growth which commonly is associated with a high proportion of deformed leaves.

The upper surface of Crazy Quilt leaves is coarsely mottled with areas of dark and light green, with the light green areas chiefly over or near the veins (figs. 1, 2, 3). Dark green areas between the veins may appear almost brown because of an abundance of purplish pigments which are essentially absent from the light green areas. The pattern is much less conspicuous in some leaves than others, but none has been seen without it.

This mottling is not evident on the back of the leaf although the veins generally are lighter than the areas between veins where the color varies from a very pale green to purplish red, depending upon leaf age and conditions of growth. The surfaces between veins, however, are finely roughened with irregular pits, a condition not readily shown in photographs.

Deformity of leaves shows chiefly in irregularities of outline (fig. 3) but it may also involve twisting and fluting. An occasional leaf is reduced to little more than a strap; and some monstrosities appear to be parts of two leaves grown together, borne on a flattened petiole. Some plants grow many months with all leaves essentially normal in form, while other plants of similar age develop multiple crowns and an abundance of deformed leaves.

Most of the blossoms are normal in form and structure, rather similar in size, form and color to those of the variety Amethyst (figs. 1, 4). They have the usual one pistil, two stamens, and 5 petals (more accurately called corolla lobes) with the two upper petals slightly darker than the others; and they are produced in clusters of up to seven per stem. As shown in the figures, however, the Crazy Quilt blossoms are streaked and spotted with deeper tones of the same basic color, distributed somewhat variably over the

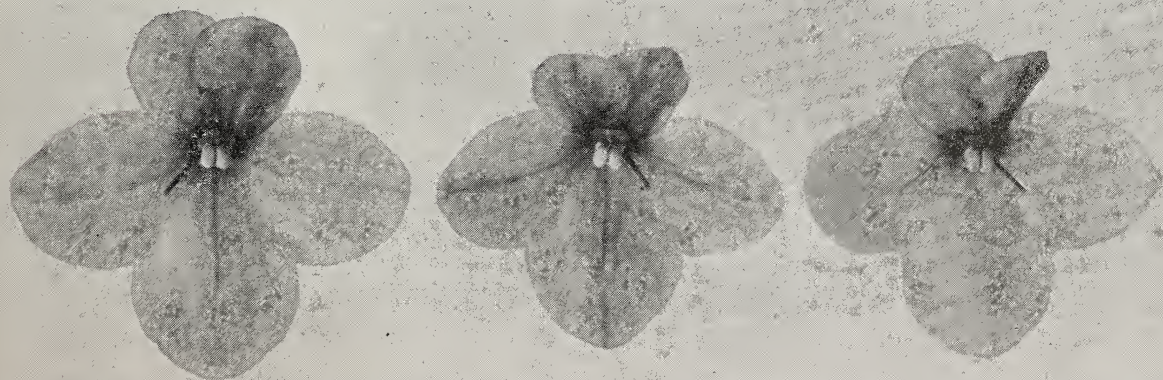
petals but often including a long dark streak from the center to the tip of the petal. These darker streaks and spots all have indistinct margins that blend more gradually into the surrounding lighter tones than is true of the blue flecks and streaks in the variety Fantasy. The latter variety owes its mottled blossom color to a genetically inherited character, as shown by Reed (3, 4).

Blossom deformities in the Crazy Quilt variety are of extremely varied type and degree (figs. 1, 2, 5). There may be only one or two extra petals or stamens, or there may be enough extra petals to form a fair double blossom. This same variety is said once to have been on the market under the name of Double Light Orchid. Great increase in number of flower parts sometimes is accompanied by reduction to only one blossom on the stem, as if the entire blossom cluster had fused. In one such monstrosity the writer counted nine sepals, thirteen petals, twenty-four stamens, seven pistil styles, and three parts that were combinations of stamens and petals. In another, with the same numbers of sepals and pistils, there were twenty petals and eighteen stamens. The one shown in figures 1 and 5 had twelve petals with thirty-four stamens.

Transmission of the Crazy Quilt Disease

There are several known methods of transmitting virus diseases from plant to plant, and thereby testing to determine whether suspected plants are, indeed, infected. One of the most dependable methods involves grafting a piece of the suspected plant onto a healthy one and seeing whether that plant develops the disease in its new growth. Grafts made by plant pathologists for this purpose often are very different from grafts made by horticulturists for vegetative propagation. In the tests reported here, for example, only leaves were grafted. Using horticultural terminology the Crazy Quilt leaf was the "scion", and the plant it was grafted onto was the "stock". Actually two different types of leaf graft have been used in this study: (a)

Figure 4. Two mottled blossoms of the Crazy Quilt variety compared with a blossom of the variety Amethyst at right.



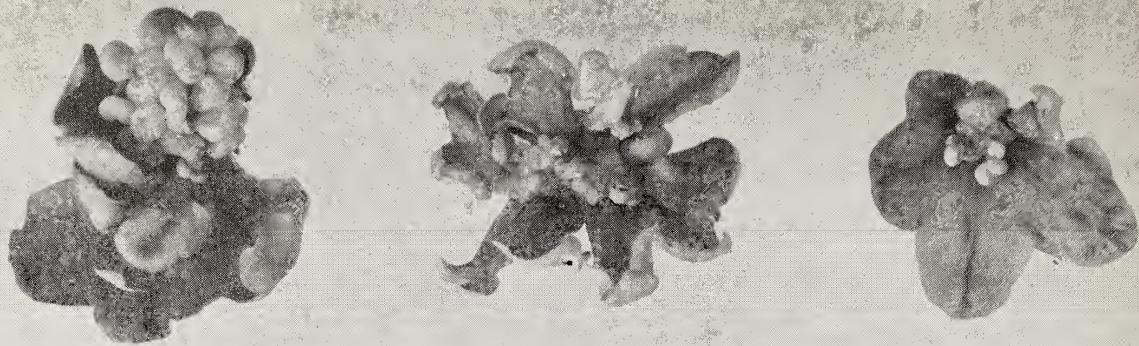


Figure 5. Three examples of deformity of blossoms in the Crazy Quilt variety. The one at left appears also in Figure 1. Blossoms of more nearly the usual double form occur more frequently than such monstrosities as these. See Figure 2.

leaves of Crazy Quilt variety were grafted onto petioles (leaf stalks) of plants of other varieties; and (b) leaves of Crazy Quilt were grafted to leaves of other varieties and these grafted leaf pairs were then planted to propagate new plants.

In both types of graft the scion leaf was prepared by making a slanting cut through the petiole, about an inch long and starting at the back of the petiole about one-fourth inch below the base of the leaf blade. To graft onto a growing plant, a matching cut was made in the petiole of an attached leaf, removing and discarding the leaf blade. The two cut surfaces were then fitted together and wrapped securely with strips of a self-adhesive latex bandage (fig. 6). Such grafts are very fragile at first, and not all are successful. If they grow together securely, however, scion leaves may live several months.

To graft together leaves for propagation, the scion leaf was prepared essentially as already described. The stock leaf was then prepared in the same way except that the cut began at the front of the petiole and slanted downward to the back of the leaf. These grafts were wrapped with latex bandage strips almost to the base, then the thin pointed bases were cut off to leave blunt lower ends suitable for propagation. Completed grafts were planted in sand until plantlets appeared, then planted one graft to a pot, and finally the plantlets were potted separately. This method proved less suitable for studies of the present nature than the first type of graft: The experimenter cannot determine whether the graft has grown together without destroying it; and he must wait for new plants to grow before he can know the results of the experiment.

Experiment 1 was started in January, 1954, when only a few leaves were available, using the method of grafting leaves for propagation. Crazy Quilt leaves were grafted to leaves of seven normal appearing varieties, with only one graft per variety. As checks, two leaves of each of these varieties were grafted together similarly. These fourteen graft pairs plus additional ungrafted leaves of the seven varieties were planted for propagation. After the resulting plants had

grown to blossoming stage it was evident that the Crazy Quilt infection had moved across the graft unions to cause disease in three varieties: Double Neptune, Azure Beauty, and Snow Prince. Each of those three graft pairs produced two or more plants of the Crazy Quilt variety. Each pair also produced either two or three plants that could readily be identified as Double Neptune, Azure Beauty, or Snow Prince, but that were modified from the normal by symptoms of disease acquired from the Crazy Quilt leaf scion.

The four other varieties in this experiment did not become infected. These were *Saintpaulia ionantha*, Blue Eyes, Mauve and Sailor Girl. From each of those graft pairs there developed two to four typical Crazy Quilt plants and from three to five healthy plants of the other variety. It is significant that these remained healthy despite the fact that they grew intertwined with the plants of Crazy Quilt in the same propagation cluster, and that there was no spread of infection at the time these plants were separated for individual potting. This experiment thus proves first, that the Crazy Quilt variety has a disease that can enter plants of other varieties through grafted petioles, and second, that this disease is not readily spread to other varieties by contact of leaves or by handling the plants.

Experiment 2 was begun during February, 1954, without awaiting results of Experiment 1. Two leaves of Crazy Quilt variety were grafted onto petioles of three young plants of each of five varieties. Partly, perhaps, because the plant materials were young and very fragile, and partly because grafts were kept wet with cloth wicks dipped into water, nearly all of these grafts collapsed before any union could form, and the experiment was almost a complete failure. One plant of Sailor's Delight did become infected, showing leaf mottle symptoms fifty-four days after grafting, followed by a dark blue mottling of the medium blue double blossom. This plant became infected long before plants had grown in Experiment 1, providing the first evidence of an infection in the Crazy Quilt variety.



Figure 6. Diseased and healthy blossoms of Azure Beauty (dark variant) above, and Sailor's Delight, below. In Azure Beauty the dark areas are fewer and larger than in Sailor's Delight.



Just before the plant materials were available for Experiment 2, some practice grafts were made onto sturdy plants of blossoming size. No attempt was made to keep these grafts wet. Among them were two scions of Fantasy grafted onto Gorgeous. One was broken off accidentally after a few weeks; the other looked normal for several months. This experience gave confidence in the possibility of successful leaf grafts onto sturdy, well established plants.

Experiment 3 was a more successful test of transmission by grafting Crazy Quilt scion leaves onto healthy plants of other varieties. The plants were large and vigorous, in three inch pots. They had been propagated from leaves put down ten

months earlier, and were already adjusted to the environment in which the experiment was made. Scion leaves were from plants of similar history. On December 15, 1954, two leaves were grafted onto one plant each of Azure Beauty, Blue Eyes, Double Neptune, Mauve, Sailor Girl, and *S. ionantha*. All scions remained in good condition indicating that unions were forming, until one collapsed on Sailor Girl after six weeks and the other on this plant a week later. Evidently the infection had already moved into the stock plant, because all six plants developed symptoms. Grown on the same table throughout the experiment were twenty-five plants of the same varieties that had not been grafted with Crazy Quilt leaves. These all remained healthy.



Figure 7. Crazy Quilt disease symptoms in new growth of an Azure Beauty plant that was inoculated experimentally by grafting. One graft and the scion leaf are shown in place.

First symptoms were noted in leaves of *S. ionantha* forty days after grafting, and in Azure Beauty, Double Neptune, Mauve, and Sailor Girl during the next two days. Initial leaf symptoms in Blue Eyes were indistinct. Blossom symptoms were first seen one to three weeks after leaf mottle was detected.

The six varieties of this experiment, added to Snow Prince of Experiment 1 and Sailor's Delight of Experiment 2, bring to eight the varieties that have become infected with the Crazy Quilt disease in these experiments.

Symptoms of the Crazy Quilt Disease

Now that several varieties are available for comparison in the healthy and the diseased condition, it is possible to define the symptoms of this disease. Infections from Experiment 3, however, are still too young to have attained their maximum severity. Symptoms in blossoms and leaves differ greatly from one variety to another.

Blossoms of all the colored varieties tested become mottled with spots and streaks of color deeper than the normal for the variety (fig. 6). As in Crazy Quilt itself, these dark spots have less sharply defined margins than spots in the variety Fantasy and in some so-called Fantasy variants of other varieties. Generally the areas between the dark spots remain the same color as in the healthy variety. An exception is Azure Beauty. Unfortunately the plants used in these studies were all of a uniform blue variant of the variety. In the diseased condition, lighter colored areas in the petals often assume a rosy hue not seen in the normal blossoms of Azure Beauty. Mottling in Double Neptune blossoms is less conspicuous than in lighter colored varieties, the

normal color being so dark that darker spots and streaks are readily overlooked.

The white blossoms of Snow Prince, when infected, do not become mottled, and most of them are indistinguishable from those on normal plants. Some, however, become deformed as described for the Crazy Quilt variety. Occasionally entire clusters appear fused into monstrous, many-parted blossoms on flattened stems, and these monstrosities have developed a faint blue-gray tinge not seen in normal Snow Prince.

The only other variety in which such deformed blossoms have yet been seen is Azure Beauty, but their occurrence is so sporadic that it will be no surprise if they appear also in other varieties after infected plants are older.

The disease appears to reduce blossom size only slightly in most varieties, at least during early months following infection.

Leaf symptoms are much more distinct in some varieties than others, but all eight varieties observed in the infected condition show combinations of mottling with some degree of stunting and distortion or deformity. The first symptoms are much milder than they become several months later. Leaves that were barely visible in the plant center at the time of grafting may develop a mild mottle in the basal part of the blade consisting chiefly of scattered, round, pale green spots (fig. 7). Leaves that develop later show progressively more pronounced mottling until the pattern typical of the disease in that variety is developed.

Among varieties studied, the most extreme pattern has appeared in Azure Beauty (fig. 8) where the midrib and main lateral veins are over-

laid by a pale green band of irregular width, or overlaid by darker green spots and streaks banded by pale green. Between veins, the darkest areas may be darker than the normal leaf of this variety grown under similar culture. Leaves of infected Azure Beauty are markedly stunted, and their margins curl backward, but they have not been seen to show such irregular shapes as do some leaves of the Crazy Quilt variety.

Infected Snow Prince also shows stunting of leaves and recurving of their margins associated with fairly conspicuous patterns of pale green over the veins. Extreme narrowing and other deformities of leaves also occur. Leaves of Double Neptune, when infected, show only inconspicuous pale green spots and interrupted streaks over the veins, associated with mild stunting but without conspicuous changes of form. Those of infected Sailor's Delight are very inconspicuously mottled, but they present a crinkled, rough-appearing upper surface.

The backs of all these leaves are somewhat roughened by pitting, as in the Crazy Quilt variety, but this is slight in the mildly affected Double Neptune and extreme in the severely affected Azure Beauty.

The four other varieties that were first infected in Experiment 3 are not far enough along at the time this is written to permit detailed descriptions, but leaf mottling is severe in *S. ionantha* and Mauve and much milder in Sailor Girl and Blue Eyes.

Discussion

The disease described and illustrated here appears to be the first virus disease known in African violets. For it the name Crazy Quilt disease seems appropriate. This is distinct from the condition referred to by Kunkel (1) when he wrote of symptoms suggestive of a virus disease occurring throughout the entire family Gesneriaceae. What he had in mind probably was the complex of symptoms now ascribed to cold water injury (2).

Except for the interest of African violet enthusiasts in novelties, the Crazy Quilt variety would never have been propagated and distributed widely. When first offered for sale as Double Light Orchid it was not in demand, according to a dealer who handled it under that name. Later, under the present name, it sold more freely as a novelty, and it probably has been introduced into many collections without any thought of its being a diseased variety. This same interest in novelties may result in retention, propagation, and distribution of any other virus diseases that may develop in this popular group of plants.

Fortunately, the Crazy Quilt disease does not appear to spread readily enough to be especially dangerous, but the evidence is not all in. Experiments now are in progress to determine whether plants may become infected if their young leaves are rubbed with the juices of infected plants, or if the freshly cut bases of leaves are wet with such juice before propagation. If infection does

Figure 8. Two plants of Azure Beauty of the same age and grown under similar conditions: at left, infected with the Crazy Quilt virus; at right, healthy.



Last year came the double pinks!! Now this year the most unusual and fascinating African violet yet developed was introduced at Pittsburgh and caused quite a stir. It has been named "SHOW STAR", and it was certainly a star of the show.



SHOW STAR

As far as we know, no other violet can approach it in type of flower and color combination. Imagine this -- each flower is of true medium pink in color with a perfect wide dark blue star. And here's the best part of the good news! Unlike most violets with stars in their flowers, **THIS PROPAGATES TRUE FROM LEAVES** and what's more it is **GUARANTEED** to propagate true from leaves.

This means one thing to all of you who grow violets to sell or give to your friends. You will at last be able to grow a quantity of unusual star flowered violets that can be counted on to continue coming true throughout the years.

Our business at present is entirely in rooted leaves, which we ship by first class mail. To handle our orders efficiently we do not sell leaves at the greenhouse except on Friday mornings. So if you wish to see plants of "SHOW STAR" in bloom please try to visit us at that time. "SHOW STAR" will not be sold until late fall or next year (depending on the stock available) but all other rooted leaves are for sale now.

However, when we release "SHOW STAR" it will be blooming size plants in bud or flower and we expect the price will be \$5.00 each, postpaid by first class mail. If you are interested in buying one or more plants (limit of 10 plants to any order), we would like you to send us a post card stating how many plants you would be interested in buying when they are released. This of course won't obligate you in any way. These cards will be used to reserve your plants for you in case you do order later. Since a great number of these plants have already been spoken for, I suggest you send us a card showing your interest as soon as possible.

Watch for my ad in the September issue of this magazine. You will be able to order "SHOW STAR" at that time.

HENRY TEN HAGEN

Dept. SS

Warsaw, New York

(See our ad on page 25)

occur in those ways, the facts will be reported later. The only infection yet observed has been through grafts, and results of experiments reported here support the experience of commercial propagators that the Crazy Quilt disease does not spread accidentally during ordinary handling.

It is evident that the original Crazy Quilt plant, from which the variety was propagated, became infected in some way other than by grafting. We may never learn how it happened. A good guess, however, would be that some insect brought the virus to the African violet from a different kind of plant. A great many virus diseases of plants are transmitted by insects of varied kinds, including aphids, leafhoppers, thrips, and mealybugs, and even by certain mites of types not known on African violet. The apparently minor importance of Crazy Quilt disease does not seem at present to warrant the effort that would be required to determine what insects if any carry it. Growers of this diseased variety should bear in mind, however, that if the appropriate insect should get into their collections, this disease might suddenly appear in plants of varieties that formerly were free from it.

The seriously important virus diseases of vegetatively propagated plants are those that spread rapidly by some means not readily prevented, or those that reduce vigor of growth and lower the yield or quality of product without being readily detected and eliminated at the time of propagation. The Crazy Quilt disease does not fit either category: it does not seem to spread readily, and infected plants exhibit symptoms that should enable the propagator to recognize and discard them.

For the present, this disease does not appear sufficiently dangerous to justify the destruction of infected plants by owners who value them, but persons who grow the Crazy Quilt variety should realize that they are dealing with diseased plants. With the vast array of much better varieties now available, it scarcely seems worthwhile to perpetuate and continue to distribute plants that are known to be infected.

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THE END

The Name's Not The Same

Eunice Williams, Atlanta, Georgia

The name's not the same -- as the sex, that is -- when you're talking about African violets. Every year at the shows put on by the Saintpaulia Study Club here in Atlanta, I have been amazed at the number of people who think the name of an African violet is related to its sex. I usually have something to do with the educational exhibit, and a great deal of time is taken up with explaining that FREIDA, LADY FRANCES, PAINTED GIRL, etc., are NOT female plants, nor are SAILOR BOY, EMPEROR WILHELM, and BOYCE EDENS, for example, male plants. Last spring we had a genealogical display featuring as "Father" PINK FANTASY and "Mother" ORIENTAL with a half dozen of their children, and visitors would stand in a deep study and try to figure out this confusing (to them) puzzle. How could it be, when there was no boy nor girl plant involved? There is no puzzle to botanists, but many people who love and grow African violets have not had any scientific education or background, and simply assume things as they appear on the surface.

African violet blooms are bisexual -- they contain both male and female sex organs -- the stamens and pistils, and they frequently self-pollinate themselves. Flowers capable of so doing are said to be hermaphroditic, or perfect.

This misunderstanding concerning the names and sex of African violets had to have a beginning somewhere, and I believe it goes back to the naming of BLUE BOY, the first and most famous of the commercially distributed plants. After having worked so many years with African violets before they felt they had something that was worthy of the commercial market, I thought it logical that BLUE BOY was so named in the manner of the new father, who, with thumbs under arms, proudly announces, "That's my BOY BLUE, that is." But no, Mrs. Clarissa Harris tells me it was named for Gainsboroughs famous painting, Blue Boy, with no thought as to sex.

Mr. Walter Oertle, who actually did the growing and experimenting with the African violet seeds and plants for Armacost and Royston, told me that Mr. Walter L. Armacost named the ten best selected plants, and that the names were picked at random, or as names given in a contest. Those ten plants, as you probably know, were BLUE BOY, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL, AMETHYST, SAILOR BOY, VIKING, NORSEMAN, NEPTUNE, MERMAID and NO. 32. Do you notice the preponderance of male names? Just a happenso, I guess, for plants were such an

everyday thing to Mr. Armacost that he probably never dreamed that anyone would ever connect their names with one sex or the other.

The next step was to inquire as to how the "girls" got into this naming act. Since "BLUE GIRL" was the first in the series and was patented by Ulery Greenhouses, I asked them "How come?" Mr. Carl Ulery said there was a fancy, scalloped leaf mutation in their BLUE BOY plants that they felt was worthy of a name. All varieties previous to this had had very plain green foliage, and this was such a contrast with its deeply serrated edges, and white zone where leaf and petiole joined. No name had been decided on, when it was seen by a Mrs. Walters, a local retail florist. She grew quite excited, and said, "Oh, this is a BLUE BOY dressed up. Let's call it BLUE GIRL."

That seemed to set the pattern, for since then all plants with leaves of that sort have been known as "girl type." Too frequently the "type" is left out, and more people go on thinking they are female plants.

If we would but stop to think, I believe we would realize that a good many African violets are named in honor of certain people, places and events, with no thought as to sex. Such is the case of Mrs. Harris' plant, MARINE, which she introduced in the summer of 1942. It was at that time that our U. S. Marines were doing such a gallant job on Guadalcanal, and it was in a spirit of patriotic appreciation that she named her fine plant for those fine boys.

No, there is no connection between a plant's name and its sex. But as you know, most rules have their exceptions. We all have seen freak blooms -- a good many plants throw them, especially in hot weather. Ruffles was especially well noted for its deviations. So I must tell you a secret -- I HAVE seen a female plant. Brown's, of Newnan, had a pink African violet they called "MISSY." Consistently it lacked the yellow eye, or stamens. It had a very blank look. The Browns considered it a freak, and since the blooms were so small they did not bother to propagate or experiment with it.

African violets gain more enthusiasts every year, and most are eager for all kinds of information regarding their pets. It is the duty of older growers to give them correct advice whenever possible, and I wish you would spread the word that as far as African violets are concerned, the name's NOT the same -- as the sex, that is!

THE END

The Dolls Go To The Violet Show

Bobbie Hale, Taylors, S. C.

Patti awoke from a deep sleep. She could see from the moonlight in the room that Tessie was awake, too.

"What dreamest thou?" asked Tess.

Patti spoke very low, for her mistress slept nearby below. "I've such a good feeling; you might call it expectancy. Something is going to happen to us."

"Have we not been good dolls?" asked Tess.

"Why do you always let fear creep into your thoughts?" said Patti. "Just who ever doubted that we wouldn't come out of this attic one day? Didn't the tin soldier say, 'He that tooteth not his own horn, his horn remaineth untooted?' We are going into Society! The African Violet Society! The ladies who were downstairs were talking about it."

"Society!"

"And why not! There's a society for animals!"

"Is this how bees get in bonnets and bats in belfreys?" asked Tess.

"Now will you listen to me. They call this show 'African Violet Fairyland,' and we will have a beautiful cart of violets for the theme. We will wear shiny wings, and you will pull the cart while I drive."

"You will drive!"

"Oh, the cart will be filled with Blue Boys, Pink Girls, and royalty, too -- a White Prince, or was it a White King? And a Duchess! A little Kewensis will have to ride, too, they said."

"We will also meet important people. A Mrs. Boles, Mrs. duPont, and Alma (who always wears a big hat) will be there. They said that Myrtle could be expected, and that all will wear purple velvet and ruffles. They said we could love Pink Beauty, and everyone would be interested in Painted Girl and All Aglow. There will be introductions and a show series; and crown jewels and ladies in waiting will also be present, wearing royal velvet. Won't we feel grand! I am simply at a loss for words."

"Oh, Patti, I have been so comfortable here in this dusty old box for nineteen years. Must we go?"

"Why, I wouldn't miss it for the world! Anyone can sit in a box!"

And go they did! And were the two dolls beautiful dressed as fairies, bowing to Blue Heiress! White butterflies danced around them in pale blue moonlight, and their mistress was almost as proud of them as she was her plants. And when the show was over, they were packed away even more comfortably than before, surrounded by dreams of their mistress' childhood.

May the two grandsons never find the dolls' hiding place!

THE END



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Naturalistic Arrangement . . .

Materials used: bark, wood, ferns and blue African violets -- Alice Blue Gown, Big Mike and Heavenly Blue -- in a metal container.

Arrangements with Violets

Mrs. C. W. Cunningham, Memphis, Tenn.

An arrangement in a musical container -- of African violets, not to exceed fifteen inches.

Materials used: board covered with red satin; gilded toy piano with white Purity African violet; doll dressed in white satin with gold trim and red cape.

Song of the African Violet . . .

An arrangement depicting a melody or title of a song, violets predominating.

Materials used: sheet music, "Who'll Buy My Violets" in back; blue and pink cart with pink violets, Pink Girl and Pink Delight Bronze; doll dressed in blue satin with blue and pink trim and white apron.



How I Grow African Violets

W. Joyce Waller, Suffolk, England

I have been asked to write a short account of my method of growing these fascinating plants. To the experts my methods may sound amateurish and unorthodox; but they have proved very successful with me, and I hope I can inspire other amateurs to have "a go" at growing this beautiful but temperamental flower. They will never regret it and have a lot of pleasure I am sure.

About three years ago I was given a plant of *Saintpaulia ionantha*. I loved and cherished it until it died, possibly from too much care and over-watering. To console me for my loss I was given another plant with the suggestion that I take leaf-cuttings. I was remarkably lucky and soon had lots of little plantlets from the mother-leaves.

I placed my leaves, with the petioles inserted about half an inch deep, in a seed-pan containing horticultural vermiculite; this was placed in a heated propagator. It is usually about three weeks before the tiny leaves appear. I should mention that after cutting the leaves from the parent plant, I leave them for about two hours before inserting, and that if they need any support after insertion, I prop up the leaves with a match-stalk. When the plants were about an inch high, I cut off the parent leaf and potted the little plants into a compost of loam, peat and sand. Then I returned them to the propagator for a few days before placing them in their permanent home on the staging of my conservatory. After six months I had the thrill of seeing them in bloom and the satisfaction of knowing that I had grown them myself.

Since my first attempt I have always used seed-pans for final-potting instead of six-inch pots; they look so much nicer, and the plants have plenty of room to spread without becoming cramped. They are not deep-rooters and do not really require the depth required by a flower-pot. I have never found it necessary to pot them into small pots before putting them into their permanent seed-pans, but jump them straight away to six-inch pans. They make such rapid growth that it seems unnecessary bother.

I think it is important to water from below. I stand my plants in a bath of rain-water and then let them almost dry out before watering again. I believe this method prevents crown rot.

They love a warm and humid atmosphere which I can provide in summer, but during the

winter they are lucky if they can have much over fifty degrees. Below fifty degrees, I think they would be very unhappy.

One reads of all sorts of pampering but I think the less fuss one takes the better the plants flourish. I have a friend who gives her one and only plant "Turkish Baths;" she treats it as a rather spoiled and only child, and regularly it is placed on the bath-rack for a steam bath! I have not seen this ritual take place, but I gather plant and owner enjoy this together. She assures me this treatment is beneficial; but although I have tried it with a small bowl in the conservatory I cannot see that it benefits the plants in any way.

I am experimenting with leaf cuttings from Mrs. Joy Hutson; she packs so carefully that I have not had any failures. Double Rose and Double Sea Girl are two beautiful doubles, but my favorite is Edith Cossington, a delightful porcelain blue, which has to be seen to be believed, and looks wonderful with Pink Girl. Another treasure is Velvet Girl.

I only wish I had more room to grow more of these lovely plants. I would like to say that I am more than grateful to the friend who gave me my first plant of *Saintpaulia ionantha*; it led to an interest in all plants and to a fuller appreciation of our garden, which is really lovely, sloping down from the house to the river and full of possibilities for future planning. I have had a wonderful year re-constructing a rock garden, am now looking forward to the spring and hope for a reward for all my efforts; so again, many thanks to one small plant which has opened up all the delights and interest of gardening.

I have always looked for scent in my choice of flowers, but until someone asked me whether the African violet was scented, I had not realized its lack. It is so beautiful that I had not noticed this one "fault," and I sincerely believe that these few lines from William Shakespeare, with which I will end my article, speaks for itself:

"To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,
To throw a perfume on the violet,
To smooth the ice, and add another hue
Unto the rainbow, or with taper-light
To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish.
Is wasteful and ridiculous excess."

THE END

Vacations and Violets

Florence T. Foltz, Lewistown, Penna.

What to do with a collection of African violets while on vacation is a serious problem for many folks, but there are several solutions to it. Having missed both the St. Louis Convention and our vacation because my husband had undergone surgery and was unable to travel, right now if I had a chance to take a vacation MY violets would be the least of my worries. For those of you with less callous hearts, what to do with your plants depends both on how large your collection is and how long you intend to be away. Unless your home is extremely dry and hot, you can leave an average size collection for a week without any special care. Water them well just before you leave, make sure none are in a place where they will be sunburned, and forget about them. If the house is very dry, set several pans of water near the plants for added humidity.

A small collection of plants could be left in the bathtub. Put a layer of ordinary bricks . . . wrapped in cloth to protect the tub . . . in the bathtub and soak them well. Run an inch or more of water, depending on the length of time you will be away, and set the plants on the bricks. A cool cellar floor is another good place to set the pots, but unless you have some light on them the plants will get straggly looking. However, what better time to repot them for the winter?

In any case, remove all the flower stems whose buds might open and consequently fall off on the foliage. By doing this there will be less

cleaning up to do, also the danger of spotting or rotting leaves from flower blossoms is eliminated.

The ideal solution to the problem is to have a friend or neighbor tend to your plants. A word of caution here . . . have her watch you water your plants several times before you leave her in charge. Show her how dry you like the plants to be before they are watered, and above all, write down any special instructions. Here again, go over the instruction sheet with her before you go. Remember the trouble Mrs. St. John had back in September, 1951, when her well-meaning neighbor took charge?

When I asked violet friends for suggestions for this article, Louise Brotherton of Creston, Iowa, said, "I have a wonderful daughter-in-law who takes care of my plants." Unfortunately . . . or otherwise . . . we are not all thus blessed!

From experience I know that plants can be dry for a considerable length of time and not suffer any lasting damage. I do not recommend it as a routine practice, but if you are having a nice time on your vacation, forget about the plants. Unless it gets extremely hot, they will survive.

If none of these ideas will relieve your mind sufficiently for you to go away and enjoy yourself, I have only one other suggestion. Get a cardboard carton, turn it upside-down, cut a hole in the bottom slightly smaller than the diameter of the pot, and take your favorite plant with you.

THE END

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LUCK AND PLUCK NEEDED TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS

Blanche Day, Germantown, Pa.
Reprinted

Robert Bruce's spider was a piker compared to Mrs. Norman Bullock. The spider persevered for only one afternoon to achieve its much talked-of web. Mrs. Bullock stuck at African violet raising for more than three years before she managed a really robust bloom.

Starting with a single rooted leaf in 1948, Mrs. Bullock today has more than fifteen hundred thriving plants. The Bullock home at 611 Naomi Street, Bluebell Hill, overflows with African violets. Wide three-tiered tables of blooming plants stand in the living room, kitchen and upstairs hallway. In the basement are half a dozen tables of pre-blooming young violets. Single plants nod from glass shelves in the window frames. Only the bedrooms are unplanted . . . too cold in the winter.

And all the plants are perfect specimens. "I used to start a new plant from every leaf I thinned out," Mrs. Bullock says. "But gradually it dawned on me we'd be crowded out of the house if I kept it up. So now I try to be very selective."

Her selectivity has resulted in some mighty handsome violets. Last month a neighbor's boy who attends the National Agriculture College in Doylestown begged her to enter some of her plants in the school's annual show. With no advance warning of the event, she casually picked three plants at random from her living room stand. The three entries won first, second and third prize in the flowering plant division at the show.

African violets are claimed to be the most difficult house plants an indoor gardener can tackle. Tender and temperamental, they are subject to any number of diseases. Furthermore, they apparently have almost no will to live.

Mrs. Bullock chose African violets for that very reason. "They were such a challenge," she says.

Besides, she was in search of an absorbing hobby. A partner since 1937 in the Germantown Knitting Center, 38 Maplewood Avenue, she found the knitting business getting a little nerve-racking.

"You turn a woman loose with a ball of wool and a pair of needles and you can never tell what will happen," she says. "If everything works out all right, the customer takes the credit. But if anything goes wrong, it's the instructor's fault."

Her initial efforts to raise African violets were sufficiently harrowing to take her mind off any needle problems. She claims her plants experienced every bug and rot and mite that an

African violet can get. "And if they weren't killed by crown rot or root rot or by insects, the shelf fell down," she says. On a dozen occasions she threw out half her collection.

Her husband in the meantime was being both patient and helpful. But three years ago, when the Bullock African violet situation was rapidly going from bad to dreadful, he advised his wife to toss out all her plants and find another hobby.

"That made me determined," says Mrs. Bullock, squaring her jaw at the memory.

So she started studying the subject in earnest and systematically tried every system she read about. The formula, she finally discovered is fresh air and humidity. African violets need lots of both. Even in mid-winter, she keeps a little in the vicinity of the violets.

She also learned that the plants can stand more sun than is generally supposed . . . filtered sun all day in the winter . . . morning and evening sun in the summer. Last summer, as an experiment, she planted a dozen pots of violets in the garden under some evergreens. They flourished famously. Achieving a foliage of fifteen to eighteen inches across. One plant had fifty blooms.

A warning she passes along to neophyte African violet growers. Don't overwater your plants. They like it damp, but they don't like drowning, she says. She advises keeping wet pebbles around the base of potted plants on window sills.

One bit of lore she refuses to broadcast . . . the kind of soil she uses. "That's a secret," she says. "I invented it myself."

When the Bullocks moved into their charming little ante-bellum house twelve years ago, Mrs. Bullock knew nothing about plants. Her husband, whose grandfather had been one of the north of England's most notable gardeners, was appalled at her ignorance. "She didn't know a flower from a weed," he says. "One day I found her uprooting the chrysanthemums."

Both the Bullocks were born abroad; Mrs. Bullock in Germany, her husband in England. Both came to America in their early twenties, but they didn't meet until they started attending the same church sixteen years ago. They were married shortly after.

Occasional botanical catastrophes still occur in the Bullock household. During last September's spell of smog, every plant in the house shed its blooms. "Not enough humidity," the Bullocks explain.

THE END

Violets Grow Best in Moss

Mrs. R. H. Howell, Hutchinson, Kans.

Courtesy of the Hutchinson News-Herald

Are you having trouble making your African violets grow?

Low humidity may be the cause, and if so, there is a way to get around the problem. That's to bed the violets down in sphagnum moss.

If you are skeptical, I will tell you of two plants used as an experiment. One is set in a conventional clay pot, with good soil as the growing medium. The other was planted in a bed of sphagnum moss kept moist to furnish humidity.

The latter is twice as large as its conventional-set companion.

The past summer was a tough one on African violets. The plant is one which requires a lot of humidity, and such is almost completely lacking when temperatures soar above the one hundred degree mark with hot winds blowing.

But using the sphagnum moss method, I didn't lose a single plant of my two hundred and fifty varieties.

My method is very simple. I use a small wire fruit basket, filling it with sphagnum moss and leaving a small spot in the center. The violet is tapped out of its pot and placed there, the moss tucked about it. The material absorbs moisture, releasing it slowly to the plant and to the atmosphere about it, furnishing the necessary humidity in spite of the weather or room conditions.

It is necessary to water the plants only every five days during extremely hot, drying weather and less when conditions are more normal.

This steady, even supply of moisture is the secret. When potted in ordinary soil, the moisture available varies widely. Sometimes the plant is dry and then immediately after watering, just the opposite. When nested in sphagnum, the humidity remains constant, a boon to the violet.

As more or less an experiment, old, apparently worn out violets with which friends have become discouraged were cut back, and the trimmed crowns set in the moss. The violets invariably respond with quick, renewed growth, unusually healthy leaves and blossoms.

Low humidity is often not a weather condition but one caused by modern, forced-air heating plant. The moss system works as well during winter as in summer, furnishing moisture to the plants which are kept under conditions involving warm, dry heated air.

There are many ways of potting the plants with moss about them. The wire fruit basket is but one. I have used wire silverware trays to good advantage. If you are worried about the moss falling through the wire mesh, use copper screen as a liner.

I have been growing African violets for the past twelve years and believe the sphagnum moss method comes as near to being the secret of successful growing as anything. The method will work not only on violets but on any plant which thrives under humid conditions.

THE END

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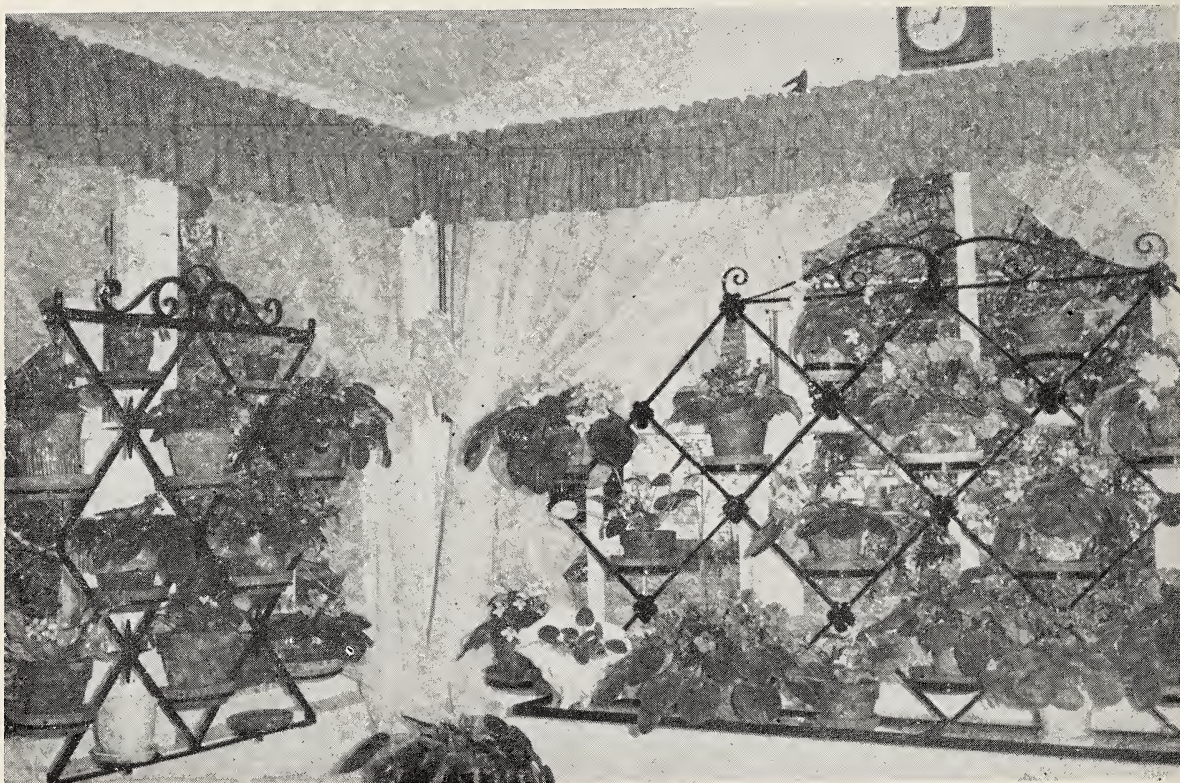
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Mrs. E. D. Norfleet, Newberry, Florida



With this beautiful window grill, each plant is staged and exhibited under the best growing conditions.

A new world of flowers began to open up to me just three years ago, when a friend gave me my first African violet.

With beginner's luck, my window sills were soon full of violets in bloom.

I began to study my plants and their requirements, and found that the breakfast room was the perfect location. With its north windows and shaded east windows it had the proper lighting. The adjoining kitchen furnished the necessary humidity.

My window sills became more crowded with the addition of new varieties, so I began looking for some way to better arrange my plants to

keep more of them in the limited space that was available.

I began searching the various flower and garden magazines for new ideas for building window shelves, or frames, to hold my violets. In one of these magazines, I found a picture of a series of shelves of metal and glass, which was most attractive. The magazine gave due credit to Alma Wright.

From this magazine I secured the address of Mrs. Wright and wrote to her. She gave me the information that I needed, and best of all, she told me of the African Violet Society and its Magazine. I immediately subscribed, and am

proud of my membership, and look forward to each new issue of the Magazine.

Following Mrs. Wright's suggestions I went to a welding and metal shop and with them worked out a plan to use an Iron Grille. This grille was originally designed for use on a screen door. It had a diamond pattern, the welding shop

shelf at the bottom of the frame. This shelf alone holds more than my window sill formerly held.

The welding shop took a special interest in this job and made up a metal design of the violet. One of these designs is placed at each of the diamond intersections and shows in the accompanying picture.



Two of Mrs. Norfleets beautiful plants

added a five inch metal ring to each diamond of the grille, so that a violet could be placed in the ring and held in place in the frame. They added a mounting bracket for the sill. This frame holds twelve plants.

Since then I have had made a similar grille, but larger, and have it in my triple window. This frame holds eighteen violets and has a glass

By using window grilles I get the maximum number of plants in a given space, each is individually framed, and the window and curtains make a perfect setting for my African violets. This display is a constant source of pleasure to me, and to my family and all who visit in my home.

THE END

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Traveling North

Catherine Shepherd, Arlington, Va.

Towards the end of September the telephone rang one morning. When I answered it was my granddaughter calling from Washington, D. C. She asked if I would like to go to Pennsylvania over the week-end, as they were going to visit her mother. I readily accepted, for I had been wanting to visit my daughter all the summer.

I then had to hustle; there were so many things to do relative to leaving my plants, even for a short time. I hastily dropped a note to a friend in Pennsylvania saying I would try and visit her while there. A special delivery letter the day I left told me if I could make it, I would be taken to various places.

I arrived in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, around 7:00 p. m. All along the road we saw the havoc the hurricane had caused. Sunday afternoon we started for Royersford, Pennsylvania, with my seventeen year old grandson driving. We went along the super-highway until we reached Valley Forge, that small village on the Schuylkill River, where in December, 1777, George Washington encamped for the winter with the American Army after the battle of Brandywine and Germantown. They endured terrible hardships, many dying of starvation and cold. We soon found ourselves in Collegeville, on Main Street. I decided to stop at Mrs. Wagner's who lives on Main Street, and ask for directions. Mrs. Wagner kindly said she would lead the way, for by that time it was getting dark. So we rode to Mrs. Mary Anderson's with an escort. When we arrived there, we found three other African violet growers whom Mary had invited to supper; their electricity was cut off because of the hurricane. Miss Carina Hall, Schwenksville, Miss Evelyn Whitson, Philadelphia, and Miss Bessie Shade, Royersford, a new fan. You can just imagine what a time we had.

I feel indebted to Mrs. Wagner, who had arranged, when she knew I was going there, and whom I had never met, to take us to different growers. She has a big heart, and nothing was too much trouble for her. I am very grateful.

Bright and early, to be exact 7:00 a. m., Mrs. Wagner came for us. The weather wasn't as bright as we were, because we were going to Fischer's Greenhouses. I have never been to New Jersey, and all this territory held so much interest for me, as I was not educated in America. We drove through the rolling hills of Chester County and went across the Delaware River in the ferry. On the ferry you think you are standing still, but are moving across all the time. Arriving at Fischers, we saw the usual sight. Row after row of plants, showing their usual high quality. I am still wondering where all

these plants are going. I watched with interest the five girls who were packing at that time. They were using small metal slides that enabled the plants to slip into the bags without damage. We spent some time with Paul Rockelman, who gave us a glimpse of the long awaited Double Pink. You know, Paul wouldn't let me buy it. After leaving there, loaded down with plants, we went on to Noker's Plant Nursery, Vineland, New Jersey. Here we found all kinds of Gesnerias growing. How I loved to see them, for I am growing so many myself. They have all kinds of stands, and Mrs. Noker has devised a special plant holder that will fit into some of the stands. The plants looked so healthy and green. You know the usual gossip that goes on when a few enthusiasts meet . . . it is very revealing. Then we started back with the feeling of a day well spent.

Mary's house is a big rambling house like they used to build. The bay windows were full of blooming plants, and it seemed every room had some in it. A lot of plants were growing in the basement under lights and were in all stages of growth. It would take too much space to name them all, but when she took me to the third floor and showed me her collection of cactus, I was astounded. All that collection under one roof, and all looking so healthy.

Tuesday morning Mrs. Wagner came again at 7:00 a. m. The weather had improved and that made things better. We headed for Tinari Floral Gardens. Mr. and Mrs. Tinari graciously greeted us, although they did not know we were coming. The greenhouses were all so full. There was row after row of plants standing like soldiers. The large greenhouse is immense. Episcias were growing in the benches, but no blue ones in bloom. There were two propagating houses that we were not allowed to go into, so we just looked through the windows. What a lot of work in these large greenhouses there must be. I know what my Tom Thumb one takes. All the different containers and other things one might need have to be taken care of. We had a very enjoyable visit, and a gift of Clementine was a delightful surprise. As we hadn't much time, we then went to the Gay Nor Greenhouse, which is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Hamer. Here we found a much smaller place, but never-the-less just as productive as the larger houses in comparison. Mrs. Hamer is a live wire, and the plants looked lovely. We did not tarry long here for time was passing, but we found plenty to talk about.

This day we passed by Bryn Athyn, the seat of the Schwenkenfelder Cathedral, built by Pitcairn, which I would have loved to enter. Potts-

down, where the iron master made things of iron. Coventry, where Benjamin Franklin did some of his courting. Through Trappe, where the oldest Lutheran Church stands, and where Henry Melchior Muhlenberg preached. The whole countryside reeks of history. We also passed the North Wales Pottery, which ships pottery and intriguing containers all over the country.

We stopped on the way back at Mrs. Rhodes, but found no one at home. We could see the lovely plants, and so many in bloom, through the windows. I just wanted to go in because I could see Achimenes in bloom. It looked like plants were on every floor.

On Wednesday morning Miss Hall came to take us to see her collection in her home. Then she took us to Ott's Greenhouse. Here again we found lovely plants, a passion vine clinging to the roof with many blooms, new productions which will be seen later; there were so many growing their own seeds and leaves, which I have enjoyed doing all along and found so interesting. We had a wonderful visit all in all to just a small section of our country. My thanks to all of them that helped to make this visit what it was. The hospitality shown by the Andersons and the kindness of Mrs. Wagner makes me long to go back again. Miss Hall then took us to the station, and we caught the train to the Reading Airport. We found the plane was three hours late. Eventually I reached home around 9:00 p. m after a glorious four days packed with so much interest. When I arrived home I was dismayed to know Edna Jones from Texas had called to see me while I was away. But it all happened so suddenly, and I have to take these opportunities when I can. It is heartening and enlightening to visit different parts of the country. Try it, and you will want to do it again.

THE END



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ROOTED LEAVES \$1.00 each

YOUNG PLANTS OF "SHOW QUEEN" -- \$2.00 each. (This is the only variety I sell in plants.)

ROOTED LEAVES of the following newest varieties are now available, priced as indicated. They are additions to my price list 1955 RA.

THESE 9 DIFFERENT DOUBLE PINKS

Rooted leaves 50¢ each

Honeybud (huge flow.)	Pink Puff (Light pk.)
Ohio Bountiful	Pink Rocket
Pink Achievement	Pink Victory
Pink Cloud	Wild Rosa (Deep pk.)
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The following 6 brand new varieties, I highly recommend. ROOTED LEAVES -- 50¢ each.

CALICO — Deep pink streaked with purple.

MAYTIME — Double version of Painted Girl.

PINK DILLY — Large, flat deep pk. flower.

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PINK ZEPHYR — Huge, true pink and white mottled.

STAR No. 1 — Star Sapphire bloom on excell. fol.

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Blue Ice	Crown Jewels
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Polar Ice	Magnum
Royal Emperor	Mauve Fringette Girl
Show Empress (75¢)	Minnetonka
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Dorlene	Red Lucky Lady
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Geneva Beauty	The Bridesmaid
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HENRY TEN HAGEN

Dept. MA Warsaw, New York
(See "SHOW STAR" ad on page 14)

CHAFF FROM CRICKEN FARM



Vera Covert, Amsterdam, N. Y.

Don't read this in the same room with your African violets. They won't like some of the things I am going to say. Are you sure there isn't a violet near you? Well then, confidentially, I think some violets have very naughty dispositions. I'll tell you why.

Awhile ago the Lyons gave me a pretty plant called Double Blue Ice. It had a good foliage, slightly wavy and a little bronze. It also had a mass of variegated blue and white blooms -- nice fluffy, double ones. It was in a tiny pot and soon had used up the soil. So I repotted it about the time the last bloom looked tired and ready to fall off. And do you know, that plant sat and sulked like a small child. It really did! Perhaps it didn't like my soil, or light or humidity. I moved it to the south light, then back to fluorescent, then finally to the top shelf in the east light. There I ignored it. Oh, I watered it along with the others, but I didn't fuss over it. Finally, after three and a half months it set to budding and very slowly gave me a crown of bloom. In the meantime the foliage changed from a wavy, bronze green to a rounded, shiny green. It was saying that if it had to live there, it would change its personality.

Here's another example. I acquired a small plant of Double White Lace. It was in bloom.



I could almost see it scowl

Then it stopped. This one didn't need repotting. After a bit it bloomed again -- a lovely, navy blue blossom with a touch of white. This was not right, so I debudded it. Almost at once it set buds again. I waited. It bloomed -- deep navy with white markings. Again I debudded, explaining patiently that it should be white with faint orchid markings, so we would try again. I could almost see the plant scowl at me. It just sat and refused to bloom. For weeks I waited. Only one of us could be the boss, and I aimed to be the one. At long last one bloom came. This one was pure white, with only a touch of soft, bluish orchid. I had spanked it into submission, but the plant retaliated by just giving me one bloom. I knew then we would never get along peacefully together. I think there would always have been a clash between our personalities. So I gave it away.

Then there were those plants that kicked over my newly established theories just like Uncle Zeke's mule used to kick out the side of his stall. I do declare, it's mighty confusin'. I found by trial method that my whites and pinks were nicer plants in a lower light intensity. White Madonna gave me nicer foliage and more bloom in the second window. The same was true of Shocking, Springtime and Snow Prince. But when Pink Delight grew so large the only place for it was the bottom shelf in strong south light, I placed it there with a promise that I would take off a row or two of leaves and make it small enough to return to its old spot. Somehow the days went by and I never kept my promise. Now it has a beautiful, big crown of pink bloom and is a symphony of rich green symmetry in its foliage. It never looked better. So there goes my theory on light intensity.

Then I tried an experiment on foliar feeding -- at this time let me say it's a wonder my plants haven't all left home for a happier existence elsewhere long before this. As Aunt Sophie used to say, "Land sakes, why can't you be happy just watching 'em grow?" However, I feel that in order to justify their being, they should give

me some answers. Maybe this is an inheritance from my Scotch grandma. She always held the belief that, "Them what eats also works." And my plants eat -- usually an amazing variety and at queer intervals . . . I expect that someday I will go to buy a plant and find that they have all heard what happens to plants that find their way to Cricken Farm. Then the plant I select will leap into the dealer's arms, screaming, "Please, don't let that woman take me!"



"Please don't let that woman take me!"

Well to get back to this experiment, I made three sections. In Section A, I gave the small plants root feeding only.

In Section B, I gave the plants root feeding plus foliar feeding.

In Section C, I gave foliar feeding only. They were on a nice well-regulated program. I sat back and watched for answers. I mustn't bore you with notes I took during this time. I'll give you only results after six months.

Let's start with Section A. These developed nicely from babyhood to adolescence. Not too fast -- just normal. They were a pretty good-looking lot of youngsters.

Now Section B. These popped right along at a great rate. The leaves were crisp and shiny and a good texture and substance. They definitely outshone Section A.

So we come to Section C. Oh, my, poor Section C. I'm still ashamed to look at some of these guinea pigs. The pale leafed varieties grew short petioles and developed a compact growth of crisp foliage. They weren't exactly handsome. But the girl type foliage really took a beating.

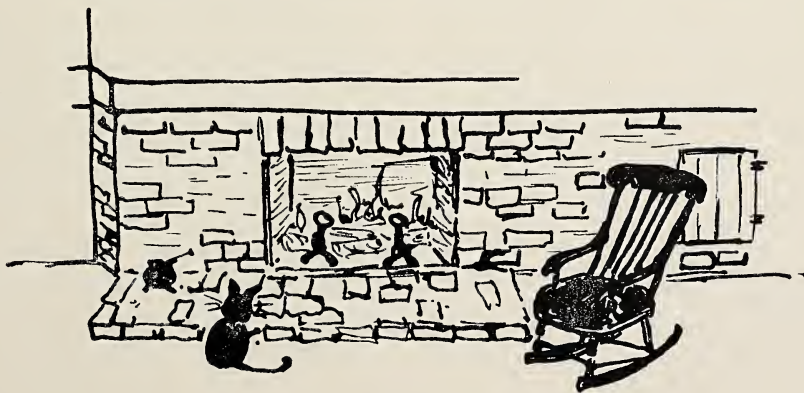
I had a pretty seedling of Bertha Human's. This grew leaves with almost no petioles. Three or four leaves fought to occupy the same space. No one won, and each leaf was a crumpled, distorted affair. They just didn't have room to open out. Her Majesty was another in Section C. This was so crowded with tight, crisp foliage that I removed several leaves on the bottom row and several next to the heart -- and found that the heart had literally suffocated. The leaves were wee and almost white. I will say, however, that Her Majesty is today a pleasant addition to my collection -- a very pretty, if slightly supreme plant. The blooms aren't so large as they should be, but I'm to blame for that, I know. In time it will adjust itself.

Seafoam was another in Section C. Connie Gross gave me a small plant, and it happened to be the right size for my experiment. I wasn't too familiar with the variety, so I called Connie one day and asked, "Is Seafoam a big Supreme?" She answered, "Heavens, no!" So I said, "Well, it is now." And you should have seen it. Big, thick leaves, thick petiole and all pretty well bunched. Somehow that plant has never quite recovered from my harsh treatment. Resentment still shows in its development. I think I gave it a feeling of frustration when it was very young, and it's my guess that poor Seafoam will never outgrow it.

So goes it at Cricken Farm. I will never have many blue ribbon show plants. Did I say many? I should have said "Any." Sooner or later they all get into the act. It isn't that I don't admire a window full of beauties, but there is always that nagging question, "What would happen if I did this and so?" And I can't rest until I do it.

I have a fascinating thing going on now. It's still too soon to know any results. It keeps me poking, feeling of foliage and muttering to myself. Sometimes I think I see progress -- then again I have doubts. But it does keep me from falling asleep in the old rocking chair, which may jolt Floyd Johnson. He tells me, "Grandmaw, the old rocking chair will get you if you don't watch out." And there's no doubt that he will be right someday in the future, when I find the time.

THE END



When It Comes To Pleasure . . .

Essie Monica Mapplethorpe, Boston, Lincolnshire, England

I started growing African violets eighteen months ago when I bought two plants in flower. I took a couple of leaves off, put them in vermiculite and sand covered with a perspex dish-cover and placed them on my bed-sitting room window ledge.

When these produced their first plantlets I was so thrilled that I bought three more leaves. By October, I had twenty lovely plantlets, two just in flower. Unfortunately I had to go into the hospital (as a patient this time), so I plunged all the pots in moist peat and left a small oil stove burning; for the weather was getting cold, and I did not want to leave my coke stove burning while I was away day and night.

I don't know if the peat was too moist or possibly the paraffin fumes were too much for them; but only one plantlet survived, so I had to start all over again.

This time I bought a miniature indoor greenhouse, heated with a one hundred watt electric bulb and a thermostat, and bought more leaves. These leaves, in vermiculite and sand, I stood on aquarium compost, kept moist with hot water at a temperature of seventy-six degrees Fahrenheit. Some leaves came on very well. Some died in a few days. The plantlets which came first, funnily enough, were from leaves I knocked off accidentally and just pushed in without any stalk.

I only use vermiculite and sand for potting with a nutrient solution and trace element tablets; but some of the plantlets were yellowish, so I added a little John Innes Base to the mixture, and now they are a lovely green.

I have sixty plantlets, some in bud, four inches deep in a thirty six by eighteen inch box which is on a stand in my window. They are resting on two inches of aquarium compost; and as the atmosphere with the coke stove continuously burning gets very dry, I sprinkle hot water on the compost morning and night. Twice a week I soak each pot and drain it.

This week I have attached a forty watt bulb to one end of the box over the plants and put a canopy of windowlite, and when I go home at seven in the evening I turn on the light for three to four hours, put hot water around the pots and let them have a good steaming. This I decided might help to make up for the lack of sun lately and very dull days. The temperature of the room keeps about seventy to seventy-six degrees Fahrenheit.

I am hoping to have some of these plants in bloom for our November horticultural show. For this, I have added to my standard lamp three round shelves where I hope to arrange the plants all around the stand, with the smallest plants on the top shelf and the largest on the bottom shelf, which is twice the size of the top shelf.

Last month my "Blue Fairy Tale" just stopped flowering, so I put it in a large goldfish bowl and put it on the mantelpiece. Within a week it was in full bloom and perfectly happy, so four more goldfish bowls were acquired and filled with good effect.

Then I made a strawberry jar in concrete -- because they are not apparently obtainable in this country -- and covered this with Snowcem. I made five lips around it and a large opening at the top; so with six flowering young plants in it, it looked a picture.

There is one advantage of living in a bed-sitting room. You cannot help watching the plants grow. They are the first thing you see in the morning and the last thing you see at night, and if I can't sleep I get up and turn them all around and rearrange them.

Some of the leaves are producing now their second lot of plantlets.

Another way I have of propagating the leaves is in distilled water with charcoal and a Plantoid tablet added. Without the Plantoid the plants came up yellowish.

THE END

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THE EFFECTS OF VARIOUS CONCENTRATIONS OF A NUTRIENT SOLUTION ON GROWTH OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET IN SAND CULTURE

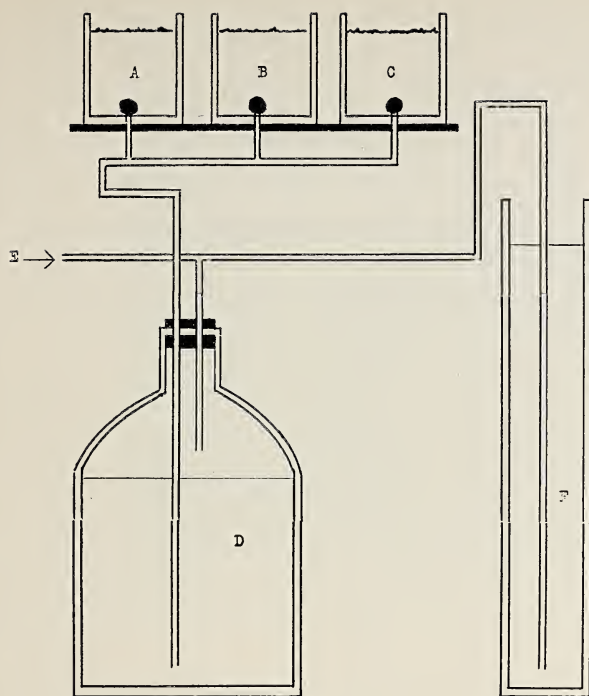


FIGURE I

Jerry Washburn¹ and C. E. Ackerman²

¹ Undergraduate student in Floriculture, Department of Horticulture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, now serving with the U. S. Army.

² Instructor in Floriculture, Department of Horticulture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

Introduction. During recent years the African violet has become one of the most popular pot plants grown in the home. Along with this popularity there developed a great enthusiasm to grow attractive African violets by supplementing the fertility of the soil mixture with fertilizer applications. In many cases, over-enthusiasm to grow attractive plants has led the grower to use fertilizer in such proportion that satisfactory plant growth was considerably limited by the harmful effects of excess nutrients or excess soluble salts. The practice of applying fertilizer solution to the growing medium without due consideration of the availability and the concentration of the various essential elements already present in the growing medium has been a cause for unsatisfactory growth of the African violet in many cases. Commonly, the African violet is grown in a manner which, in some respects, is essentially a type of sand culture method for growing plants. That is, the growing medium is composed largely of a medium or a fine grade sand to which water, and fertilizer solution is applied periodically at the discretion of the grower. This investigation was undertaken to determine what concentrations of a satisfactory nutrient solution would produce desirable growth

of the African violet in sand culture. Desirable growth, as used in this investigation, is meant to include attractive foliage on lengthy petioles, large flowers of good substance, numerous flowers per peduncle, and numerous peduncles per plant.

This investigation was conducted at the Floriculture Greenhouses, University of Illinois. The plant materials used were supplied by J. A. Peterson Sons, Cincinnati, Ohio. This project was supported in part by a grant in aid from the African Violet Society of America.

Materials and Methods. "Sailor's Delight" was the variety of *Saintpaulia ionantha* (H. Wendland) used in this investigation. Nutrient solution was supplied to the sand culture by two methods. The constant water level method was used during the first phase and the subirrigation method was used during the second phase of the experiment. Young plants were obtained from leaf cuttings on September 4, selected for uniformity and grown for thirty-six days in eight-inch glazed earthen-ware culture pots containing clean quartz sand. The constant water level method was used to supply the nutrient solution to the plants. The method is essentially the same

as that described by Robbins (6). ³ During this phase of the experiment all plants received the same concentration of elements. The composition of the nutrient solution is shown in Table I. It is one that will support satisfactory growth of the African violet in sand culture (1) and is similar in composition to Hoagland's No. 1 solution plus the supplementary solution of minor elements (4). The nutrient solution was prepared from stock solutions of the (a) major and the (b) minor elements. Reagent grade chemical salts and distilled water were used to make separate stock solutions. The stock solutions contained the following concentrations:

(a) Salt	Grams per liter of water
KH ₂ PO ₄	68.05
KNO ₃	50.55
Ca(NO ₃) ₂ ·4H ₂ O	118.08
Mg SO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	123.25

(b) Salt	Grams per liter of water
H ₃ BO ₄	2.86
Mn Cl ₂ ·4H ₂ O	1.81
Zn SO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	0.22
Cu SO ₄ ·5H ₂ O	0.08
H ₂ MoO ₄ ·H ₂ O	0.02
Fe SO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	6.25

The nutrient solution contained the following concentrations:

Salt	Grams per liter of water
KH ₂ PO ₄	0.1530
KNO ₃	0.3790
Ca NO ₃ ·4H ₂ O	0.8856
Mg SO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	0.3697

The minor elements were supplied by adding 0.75 milliliters of the stock solutions (b) per liter of nutrient solution. The total soluble salt in a solution can be adequately expressed in terms of electrical conductivity (9). The soluble salt in the nutrient solution was measured in terms of electrical conductivity and expressed as millimhos per centimeter or ECX10³. The measurement was determined with the Solubridge RD-15 using the Cel G-2. The final composition of the nutrient solution is shown in Table I.

The reaction of the nutrient solution was adjusted to pH 6.6 by addition of the required amount of 0.1N NaOH. A Beckman glass electrode pH meter, model H2, was used to measure the pH. The solution in each culture pot was maintained at a level considered to be conducive to satisfactory plant growth. The solution was renewed twenty days after the treatment began. The environmental conditions of light intensity, light duration, temperature and relative humidity were maintained at levels considered to be within the range favorable to the satisfactory develop-

ment of the African violet (3). The following conditions were maintained throughout the investigation: 300-900 foot-candles of light; a 14-hour photoperiod, a night temperature of 62-68° F. and a day temperature of 68-88° F. and a relative humidity of 58-88%. A fluorescent light assembly containing two rows of 40-watt tubes was suspended eighteen inches above the plants to supplement natural day-length so as to provide the 14-hour day-length. Light intensity at the leaf-surfaces of the plants under the fluorescent light was approximately three hundred and seventy-five foot-candles.

The second phase of the experiment was begun on the thirty-seventh day. Plants of approximately the same size were selected from the constant level treatment. One plant was placed in each of eighteen glazed, earthen-ware culture pots containing quartz sand. Six treatments of different concentrations of the same nutrients were established using three pots per treatment. The subirrigation method was used during this phase. The method is similar to that described by Davidson (2).

The arrangement of the pots on the greenhouse bench is shown schematically in Figure 1. A hole three-quarters of an inch in diameter was located at the base of the wall of each pot which permitted nutrient solution to enter the pots periodically as described below. The carboy, D, contained sixteen liters of nutrient solution. Three times daily, and electric clock turned on an electrically driven air pump for eight minutes. The air from this pump entered the main air line, E, located beneath the bench, and forced the liquid in the carboy upwards, flooding the pots A, B and C, simultaneously. A hydrostatic pressure column, F, was connected to the end of the main air line so that the maximum pressure

EDITOR'S NOTES AS FOLLOWS:

A solubridge is a type of wheatstone bridge used to measure the electrical conductivity or conductance of a solution. This can be done because the ions which are formed when salts are dissolved in water carry a charge and will conduct electricity through the solution. The amount of electricity conducted through the solution is determined by the kind and number of ions which are present.

The standard unit for conductivity is mho per centimeter. Since most solutions have a conductivity that is much less than a unit, a subunit or millimho is used so that the location of the decimal point will be more convenient in expressing data on conductivity.

The conductance of a solution in mho is the reciprocal of the value of its resistance in ohms.

³ Numbers in parentheses refer to literature cited.



Figure 2. The variety *Sailor's Delight* grown in sand culture. The nutrient concentration increases from left to right.

in the line could be regulated by altering the height of water in the tank. A total of six carboys were arranged on the greenhouse bench so that one air pressure system controlled the entry of nutrient solution simultaneously into all pots. The nutrient solutions flooded the pots at 8:00 a. m., 2:00 p. m. and 8:00 p. m. daily. Since the volume of nutrient solution in each carboy greatly exceeded the volume of the three pots in each treatment, an accurate regulation of the air pressure was necessary in order to prevent the excess nutrient solution from overflowing the rims of the pots.

The nutrient solutions were prepared from stock solutions mentioned above. The electrical conductivity of the solutions in each treatment was measured as described above. The composition of the nutrient solutions used in the treatments during this phase of the experiment are shown in Table II. The pH of the solution in each treatment was maintained within the range of 6.0 -- 6.8 by addition of required amounts of 0.1 NaOH. The solution in each treatment was renewed three times at four week intervals during the sixteen-week experimental period. Figure 2 shows the experimental set-up. The treatments increase in concentration from left to right.

At weekly intervals, measured amounts of distilled water were added to the solution in the carboys to maintain the initial 16-liter volume. During the last thirty-five days of the investigation the largest diameter of the first flower to open on each peduncle was measured in millimeters and recorded. Also recorded were the lengths of each flower peduncle from the point of attachment on the plant to the calyx of the first flower to open, and the number of buds that were distinguishable at that time. As each flower

record was completed, a short length of string was loosely attached around the stem of the lead flower to indicate that it had been recorded.

Results and Discussion. The comparative size of the plants grown under the different treatments at the termination of the experiment are shown in Figures 3a and 3b. The concentration of the nutrient solutions increases from left to right in Figure 3a and from right to left in Figure 3b. The difference in growth can be readily observed by directly comparing the plant grown in the lowest nutrient concentration with the plant grown in the highest nutrient concentration. These two plants are shown on the left side of Figure 3a and Figure 3b, respectively. With an increase in concentration of nutrient solution the leaves are smaller and the leaf petioles are comparatively shorter causing the plants to produce more compact centers and a noticeably smaller overall diameter. The data shown in Table III indicate that generally the flower size, peduncle length, number of buds, and the number of flowers also decreased as the concentration of salts in the nutrient solution was increased.

During the course of the experiment the solution enveloped the crowns of three plants which had their crowns submerged below the peak level of the solution in the glazed crocks. Two of these three plants were in the 1.25 concentration plot and the other was in the 1.75 plot. On each of these three plants there was sufficient accumulation of salts to cause injury to the crown. The damage to the crown tissue caused by the accumulation of the crystallized salt on the crown was similar in appearance to the injury caused by mite infestation as described by Lawton (5). However, the plants were free of apparent plant pests and diseases throughout the experiment.



Figure 3a. Relative growth of variety Sailor's Delight at various nutrient levels. Left to right. Concentration of 0.75, 1.00, and 1.25, respectively.

The data shown in Table IV indicate that the water additions per treatment required to maintain the initial 16-liter volume of solution, was less as the concentration of the nutrient solution increased. The leaves of the plants grown in the higher nutrient concentrations were less turgid than those in the lower concentrations. Plants grown in the highest concentration of nutrients showed signs of incipient wilting during the last six days of the investigation. Figure 3b does not indicate this wilted condition because the short petioled leaves are partially supported by the rim of the pot. Under the conditions of this experi-

ment, this shows essentially, that as water concentration is reduced in the nutrient solution, the general growth of the plants tends to be retarded. The results obtained on the plants grown in the higher nutrient concentrations indicate that water uptake by the plants could be the limiting factor in their growth.

Of the total amount of water added to each carboy to maintain the original 16-liter volume of solution, it is to be understood that part of the water was lost from the sand by evaporation, part through transpiration, and part was used in the metabolic processes of the plants. Assuming

Figure 3b. Relative growth of variety Sailor's Delight at various nutrient levels. Left to right. Concentration of 2.00, 1.75, and 1.50, respectively.



that the relative humidity of the air surrounding each plant, and those other factors influencing evaporation, were most nearly the same, then the evaporation from each treatment could be assumed to be the same. With the leaves in the lower concentration enlarging at a faster rate than those in the higher concentrations, more water would be lost to the atmosphere from the plants with the larger transpiring surfaces.

The plants in the highest concentration showed incipient wilting during the latter part of the experiment. Incipient wilting of the healthy plant under a most favorable environment indicates an insufficient amount of water within the plant. Considerable evidence (7) is available in the literature to show that plant growth is inhibited as available water in the growing medium is reduced, either by drying or by increasing the amount of soluble material. It is recognized that growth processes of the plant cells are retarded when the plant is in a wilted condition. Thus it is concluded that growth processes were more favorable in the plants grown at the lower salt concentrations.

From the results obtained with the variety "Sailor's Delight" grown under the established environmental conditions of this investigation, it is concluded that relatively high salt concentrations tend to cause flowers of smaller diameter supported on shorter peduncles with fewer buds developed than occur on the plants grown in the lower concentrations of the nutrient solution. One might conclude from this sand culture experiment that some varieties of the African violet have a low but balanced nutrient requirement for a growth pattern considered to be desirable.

To make recommendations from the results attained from sand culture and apply them as definite values to a soil is always very difficult. The purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the results in terms of relative values, rather than in terms of absolute values expressed as parts per million in the soil extract obtained on a quick test.

Within the limitations imposed by its environment and its genetic pattern,

"the optimum growth and yield of the plant will be obtained only when the proper balance between all the nutrient elements occur in agreement with their optimum intensity (7)."

The application of fertilizer to the growing medium of the plant to stimulate the plant into better growth should be made not only in consideration of the nutritional requirement of the plant but also its effect on the total salt content and the water-supplying capacity of the growing medium. It appears to be desirable that a soil

test be made of the potting mixture by a reliable method. The test can be made prior to planting the African violet into the mixture, or sometime during the growing period of the plant. Then the results of the test can serve as a guide for the African violet grower in his program of fertilizer application.

Summary. Two methods of growing African violets in sand culture are described.

Arbitrarily chosen measures of growth of the African violet are described.

The arbitrarily chosen measures described can serve as satisfactory criteria of desirable growth of the African violet.

A range of concentrations of a nutrient solution that will support desirable growth of the African violet in sand culture is shown.

An injury due to salt accumulation on the crown of the African violet is described.

Data based on this experiment indicate that the African violet has a low salt tolerance.

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THE END

TABLE I. Composition of Nutrient Solution (Constant Level)

Major Elements Expressed as Parts Per Million						Soluble Salt as ECX10 ³ at 25° C.**
N*	P	K	Ca	Mg	SO ₄	1.40
157.50	34.85	190.60	150.40	36.48	144.09	
Minor Elements						
0.9375 ppm Iron		0.375 ppm Boron		0.015 ppm Copper		
0.375 ppm Manganese		0.037 ppm Zinc		0.0075 ppm Molybdenum		

*Nitrogen is expressed as the element but is present as nitrate nitrogen (NO₃) in all the nutrient treatments described in this paper.

**ECX10³ = 1.40 is read as 1.40 millimhos per centimeter of solution.

TABLE II. Composition of Nutrient Solutions (Subirrigation)

Treat- ment	Relative Conc. of Nutrient Solutions	Major Elements Expressed as Parts Per Million						Soluble Salt as ECX10 ³ at 25° C.**
		N*	P	K	Ca	Mg	SO ₄	
1	0.75	157.50	34.85	190.60	150.40	36.48	144.09	1.40
2 (check)	1.00	210.00	46.47	254.15	200.60	48.64	192.12	1.80
3	1.25	262.50	58.08	317.50	250.75	60.80	240.15	2.20
4	1.50	315.00	69.70	381.22	300.30	72.96	288.18	2.60
5	1.75	367.50	81.32	444.74	351.15	85.12	336.21	3.00
6	2.00	420.00	93.94	508.33	401.20	97.28	384.24	3.40

Minor Elements

The concentration of the minor elements shown in Table I was increased at the same rate, percentage-wise, as that of the major elements in the various treatments.

*Nitrogen is expressed as the element but is present as nitrate nitrogen (NO₃) in all the nutrient treatments described in this paper.

**ECX10³ = 1.40 is read as 1.40 millimhos per centimeter of solution.

TABLE III. Effects of Treatment on Variety "Sailor's Delight"

Treat- ment	Ave. Flower diameter in cm.	Ave. No. of peduncles	Ave. Peduncle length in cm.	Ave. No. of buds per peduncle
1	4.0	9.33	13.8	11.0
2 (check)	4.0	9.66	13.9	10.9
3*	3.6	8.00	13.3	10.2
4	3.0	7.33	12.6	10.0
5**	2.6	7.00	11.5	9.3
6	2.5	7.00	10.8	8.3

*Data from one plant

**Data from two plants

TABLE IV. Amounts of Distilled Water in cc. Added to Treatments to Maintain the Original Sixteen-liter Volume of Solution During the Sixteen-week Period

	Treatment					
	1	2	3*	4	5**	6
Total	7240	7420	6960	6590	5700	5170
Average per plant	2413.3	2473.3	2320.0	2193.3	1900.0	1723.3
Percent of Check Plot	97.57	93.80	88.61	76.82	69.67
Amt. per plant per month	603.3	612.2	580.0	548.3	475.0	430.8

*Crown growth retarded on one plant

**Crown growth retarded on two plants

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS GROW BETTER . . .

LOOK THEIR BEST . . . IN PLASTIC POTS



Tests conducted under actual growing conditions have shown that African Violets do better in Plastic Pots. Roots are more evenly distributed throughout the potting soil because of the three-hole drainage system in Union Plastic Pots, Tubs and Pans. And they look better because of the contrasting colors of the Pots.

Other things you'll like about these Plastic Pots include their light weight . . . resistance to breakage . . . their non-porous nature which prevents damage to leaves that touch side of pot. Less watering required. Choose from six gay plastic colors. Utility colors at prices that compete with clay products of similar size. Standard colors at slightly higher prices.

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1¼ to 4-inch Pots; 3 and 4-inch Tubs

4 and 5-inch Azalea Pots; 6, 8 and 10-inch Pans

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The discolored and slightly deformed blossom -- the thickened flower stalk is a very early indication that Cyclamen mite is probably beginning to do its work.

"DON'T BE AFRAID"

Helen Montgomery, Kansas City, Kansas

I am amazed at the number of letters and telephone calls I receive daily, describing Cyclamen mite in some stage. Letters arrive from individuals who have grown violets for years, and still haven't taken the little extra care and protection to have healthy, clean plants. Sodium selenate is the "insurance" that is so very reasonable in price that each and every person can afford to buy it and use it, whether they have three violets or three hundred thousand. We wish there were a law compelling everyone that traded, sold, or gave violet leaves, cuttings or plants to use sodium selenate -- the one and only guarantee (to my knowledge) that plants, etc., would be free from this dreaded menace.

The skull and cross-bones on the bottle or carton seem to frighten so many. Selenate is a deadly poison, but so are the garden sprays we use for our roses, or the iodine we put on a cut finger. It would be very unwise to recommend it to people who would be so careless as to leave a bottle of aspirin, a gallon of Clorox, or sleeping pills within reach of small children. The same people would be too careless to have selenate around. I doubt, too, that they could raise a beautiful violet. I asked a young doctor, a violet hobbyist and a friend of mine, who has three small children, if he used selenate. He told me that he did and was not at all afraid of it, be-

cause he kept his plants out of reach -- not only because he didn't want to take a chance on the children eating the foliage, flowers or dirt, but he didn't want his beautiful plants ruined by their small hands. Another friend of mine, a prominent horticulturist, was in my home one day when a customer called for a gift plant. I wrapped the plant and attached a small card (I had them printed) telling her not to discard the soil in her garden where she would be likely to grow fruits or vegetables, or where the birds would eat it, because in all probability they would die. He laughed and said he thought I was going to a lot of unnecessary trouble, because it was very unlikely there would be enough selenate in a three or four inch pot of dirt to kill a bird, let alone a human being.

The point I wish to make is this. Do use sodium selenate. There are so many different kinds of products on the market, but **do not use raw selenate** unless you buy it in capsule form. It is much too dangerous to have around. Look through your violet magazines. You will find dealers selling selenate. Order from them and do follow the manufacturer's directions **exactly**. I do not recommend sprays; I understand they will kill the mite that is alive at the time of spraying, but there is not assurance that the spray will have any effect on the eggs that have



The center leaves of this plant have the characteristic Cyclamen mite damage -- deformed, small brittle leaves with a greyish, wooly appearance.

not hatched. I buy quarter gram capsules, each to be dissolved in a gallon of warm water. I use the extra dilute method, one ounce to three-inch pots, two ounces to four-inch pots. I bought a one-ounce ear syringe from my druggist, so I am sure of getting the exact amount on each violet. I put the selenate solution in the saucer when my plants are dry. I repeat the directions for the extra dilute method every four months. I take no chances. I take my bucket of selenate solution, my syringe, and a bucket of warm water all on a tray. If I splash selenate on my hands or arms I immediately wash them off in the bucket of warm water. If the phone rings, I let it ring until I have placed my selenate on a high table, so my pup or small nieces (if they are over here) will not bother it.

Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Here are the other measures I take to have beautiful, clean, healthy plants. I do not selenate each new plant I buy and bring in until the next time my plants are due for their treatment; then I selenate them all at the same time. I never let the leaves of one violet plant touch another violet. I keep all of my plants each in its own saucer so that they are all watered individually; and if I buy a plant that is infected with nematodes, they cannot swim to my other plants and infect them. You know, of course, that the only way root nematodes spread is by swimming. I use a teaspoon of liquid

cholordane to a gallon of water and water with this solution once from the top about every six months; this keeps the little black manure gnats away. While they are harmless, they are unsightly.

Remember folks, there is no disgrace in having mite; but there is nothing so disgraceful as keeping it. If each and every one of you would use sodium selenate, we could soon have Cyclamen mite stamped out. If our commercial growers would put a capsule in each pot they send from their greenhouses, we all would be glad to pay a little more for our plants. State inspection helps a lot, but every housewife who trades plants and leaves does not have state inspection. However, **you can insist, and must to only trade or buy from growers who use sodium selenate.**

THE END

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WHERE DOES THE BLOOM COME FROM?

Mrs. Melissa Richards, Philadelphia, Penna.

Having read in the Magazine about some other Society member's baby plantlet blooming, I noted that I had the same thing happen three times myself, twice with a Fantasy plantlet and once with a small Pink Cheer. Noticing that flower stalk did not emerge from the mist of the little leaves, I wondered where its growth came from. To find out, I turned the plant out of its container and shook off the soil. Besides the three baby leaves that were above the soil, I found there were about twenty white leaves all bunched together under the soil, and from these the flower had grown and bloomed. I have wondered if this indicates any disease, and if any other members have had this same experience -- or have been curious enough to find out where the bloom comes from.

This summer I experimented with weather -- versus -- violets. In past summers, everytime it even looked like rain I raced out on the porch and carried in fifteen or twenty plants. After two years this grew a little tedious, and this year I put ten plants on the porch and left them there, rain or shine. They received about two hours of morning sun and were watered frequently by rain that swept in from the northeast side of the porch. Also, about once a week I turned the hose in on them, using the spray, but not a fine spray -- this was done if it hadn't rained. Guess what? They bloomed better than they ever had before. They received this "harsh" treatment for about two months and showed no signs of being hurt in any way. Of course, here in Philadelphia, we had no rains that lasted over a few hours, but if rain had lasted over a day I would have brought them inside to keep the soil from washing away in the top of the pots -- but with the hot summer that we had I did not have this problem.

I am not advising leaving plants out in heavy or prolonged rains, but I know these "Fragile" plants can take local rains and thundershowers -- and like it!

THE END



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FOUND-PEACE IN AFRICAN VIOLETS

Katherine Schultz, Clinton, Ohio

Oh lovely, lovely day!
Why? I've just heard the news
My African violets all may stay,
Wee ones, large ones, and the small,
I'll find a corner for them all.
I'll fill every shelf, oh, yes, I will
Fill every single window sill.
Oh happy, happy day!
My lovely violets all may stay.

It's happened! Oh, happy day, it's finished -- complete. You ask me why all the excitement? Believe me there is excitement in the house. Though I'm all alone. Today is the day I will invite you all to go with me to open the door of my room. At first, I hoped; then being assured, I waited; and now at long last my very own violet house! All of its twelve by eighteen feet filled with beauty and happiness was started and finished by the dear hands of my loved one.

First the daily tasks must be done, the last dish wiped and tucked away. Now I wipe my hands and smooth my hair. Come one, come all, over to the door, the magic door. I pause with my hand on the knob to utter a little prayer of thankfulness to the one who built it and to the One above who made all this beauty and color possible, for the peace He has instilled in me at last.

As I open the door and go in I stop suddenly, for the pinefrost overhead seems to lean down and caress the darker green beneath, as if to say, "Lie still, she is happy today." As I look around, my gaze falls on the green foliage blending with the red cedar walls, the different shades of bloom; and I think to myself, "What a Fairyland." My eyes wander over the shelves by the windows. Eight large windows of beauty; Pink Delight gracing first place along the row with deep Pink Cheer at the end; below, lovely Blue Eyes looking at Geneva's Daughter; then on and on with DuPonts blue, stately foliage holding reign over Old Lace; Little Boy Blue, old faithful, caring for Blue Girl by his side. My glance falls on Blue Fairy Tales. I pause as that beautiful song comes to my mind, "Fairy Tales Do Come True if You are Young at Heart." Oh, how true in this fairy land. Even little "Butch" in his cage above me reechoes in song the happiness there.

Across the other windows I spy beautiful doubles of every hue -- the pure white; Roseonnas, so dainty with their curly leaves nodding as though they are glad to be there; bi-colors; miniatures; purples; lavenders; and the lovely reds. Can you see them? I can hardly believe they are mine, loved and cared for by me. I see

the little seedlings under the lights, with their stems and fat little buds just trying to burst open, full of surprises. A thought comes to me: why, not long ago they were just a little seed pod that I watched from the first day of pollination, watched it fatten and grow, and there they are, beautiful little plants. Magic, and love, also a gift from Above. There in the bins are little wee plants getting a start, a flat of leaves with mouse ears peeking out. A little dish of seeds just showing through the soil. What more could I want?

I turn at the door, interrupting my thoughts, and glance through the window at the blue fall sky and know that soon snow flakes will be fluttering down to create a winter wonderland outside my fairyland. An artist could not want a more beautiful picture to paint. As I leave I know I shall soon be busy in there, potting, cleaning, watering and just looking in my little house of happiness.

And once again I pause and utter a prayer; for a few years ago when in utter despair and sorrow I found the lovely African violet to work with and love, and now I have peace and contentment in their beauty. Perhaps someone, somewhere, in darkness and despair, may reach out and hold a fragile violet in their hand and watch it grow into a blue bird of happiness.

Dear little seedling, oh so wee
Maybe one day you will be
Someone's blue bird of happiness.

THE END

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Kenosha, Wisconsin



Above: Rows of display tables at the Canton, Ohio, Show.

Below: First African Violet Society of Louisville, Kentucky, welcomes guests.





Prize winners in the April show in Memphis, Tennessee. Front row, White Lady with the Red Ribbon and Red King, Blue Ribbon and Silver Compote winner, Novice Division; second row, Blue Girl, Blue Ribbon winner, and Blue Eyes, Red Ribbon holder.

SHOW *News and Views*

CLEVELAND OHIO

The interest was great, and visitors came from surrounding cities and distant states to view the Fourth Annual Saintpaulia Show, presented by the Cleveland Saintpaulia and the Dubonnet Saintpaulia Societies, held October 4th and 5th, 1954, in the Sterling Court, of Sterling, Lindner, Davis Company.

There were over three hundred plants entered in the specimen class and about thirty arrangements, entered in competition by twenty-seven exhibitors. Horticultural awards were given the winners.

The publicity for the show, through the medium of newspaper articles and pictures, spot announcements on radio and television programs, was a great help for the crowd the show attracted. Mrs. Joseph Hodan was the publicity chairman.

Mrs. Henry Loesch won both the Queen of the Show for her plant of Azure Beauty as well as the Sweepstakes award for the highest number of points. She received twin silver bowls for her efforts.

Show Chairman was Mrs. Paul S. Jasko, co-chairman was Mrs. Henry Loesch, assisted by Mrs. Leslie Conant, president of the Cleveland Saintpaulia Society, and Mrs. Helen Meyette, president of the Dubonnet Saintpaulia Society.

TRENTON NEW JERSEY

The African Violet Club of Trenton, New Jersey, presented their Fifth Annual African Violet Show on November 19 and 20, 1954, at the War Memorial Building in Trenton. The theme of the show was "Violets on Parade."

In the center of the ballroom was a huge, tiered table, five feet in diameter and over five feet high. Each tier was ruffled in white, and on the top space a large doll, dressed as a majorette, presided. The other tiers were adorned with smaller dolls dressed in the array of colors depicting the shades to be found in our beloved house plant. Around each doll were placed "girl-type" plants in the same shades as the dolls represented. It was a very colorful and artfully arranged display.



Officers and Show Chairmen of the First African Violet Society of Lynchburg, Virginia. Left to right: Mrs. C. E. Fuller, show chairman; Miss Florence Adams, chairman of judges; Mrs. Robert Porter, Gold Ribbon winner; Mrs. Ned Bell, Purple Ribbon winner; and Mrs. J. G. Gaff, show co-chairman.

The specimen plants were foil-wrapped and placed on long tables covered in white with silver doilies under each plant. Two new sections used this year were devoted to both "girl" varieties and doubles.

The arrangement classes included "Christmas Day" centerpieces and arrangements featuring driftwood.

Miss Dorothy Ashton was the winner of the National Award for her three entries of Pink Luster, Innocence, and Marine Bouquet.

Mrs. George Pettengill won Queen of the Show with her entry of Sailor Girl. Sweepstakes award went to Miss Ashton for the most points in the show, and Mrs. Skelton placed second.

The winners in the invitation class section, which was limited to African Violet Clubs in New Jersey, were: Union County Chapter, first; Hightstown African Violet Club, second; Rancocas Valley Club, third; and the African Violet Society of Atlantic County, receiving honorable mention.

The specimen sections of the show were judged by Mrs. James Minehan, Binghamton, New York; Mrs. H. E. Anderson, Royersford, Pennsylvania; and Mrs. Frank Tinari, Bethayres, Pennsylvania.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

The Fifth Annual Show of the African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City was held in the Little Theater of the Municipal Auditorium in

Kansas City, Missouri, on February 26 and 27, 1955. Mrs. E. F. Dunlap was show chairman, and Mr. Bill Smithson was co-chairman.

More blossoms were on display than ever before. Four hundred and thirty entries were judged by Mrs. Ruth Carey, national chairman of judges. Sweepstakes award was gained by Mrs. Helen Montgomery with forty blue ribbons. Second place honors went to Mrs. J. R. Bush with thirty-one blues. Mrs. Bush entered the best plant of the show, a magnificent specimen of Red Waves.

The show theme of the "Violet Express" was carried out with model trains and planters. Two beautiful model train plaques were displayed, through the courtesy of the Union Pacific Railroad. The show schedules, with their fronts a two color print of Boyce Edens, used railroad motifs to head each section.

To the true lover of African violets, the outstanding new plants displayed were the new pink doubles. The display from Fischer's Greenhouses, attended by Mr. Paul Rockelmann, was highlighted by a beautiful plant of Lyon's Pink Cloud. From Mary Mead's Select Violet House came Ohio Bountiful and Double Arbutus Pink.

A vast improvement was noted in the quality of the artistic arrangements. From the eleven arrangements entered, the first award was won by Bill Smithson for his entry of a beautiful White Madonna. Five white candles and an arc of lights formed the background for the figure, while White Madonna violets formed a bank in the foreground. Artificial miniature white roses and lilies of the valley, tied with a white satin ribbon, completed the picture.

A unique feature was the use of twelve tables, each depicting a month of the year. The blue ribbon winners for their September entry were Mrs. Forrest Hopper and Mrs. Leo Mick, who were awarded identical silver cups and ribbons. Their arrangement was a miniature school house, surrounded by a school yard containing swings, slides, and playing children, all enclosed within a white picket fence. A sloping hillside with a pool and rock garden, surrounded by hens and chickens, was banked by miniature violets. A Holgate train, filled with tiny African violet plants, completed the picture.

Other outstanding months were: a winter scene for January; August, with a merry-go-round, ferris wheel, and a side show for the month of carnivals; and April with the Easter motif.

Many persons who had been privileged to view all five shows voted the 1955 show the most outstanding. In appreciation, grateful club members presented cups to both Mrs. Dunlap and Mr. Smithson.

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City has one hundred and five members. Mrs. Forrest Hopper is president.

THE END

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

700 PLANTS FILL HOUSEHOLD OF MENARDS IN FEEDING HILLS

African Violet Enthusiasts Have Flowers in
Every Variation of Blues, Reds, Purples, Whites

Alice Scott Ross

Reprinted from the Springfield Union

Leaves which become a parent, plants that thrive under fluorescent lights, flowers ranging in every variation of blues, violets, reds and tinted whites, are all part of the fascination that goes with African violet culture, according to Mrs. Henry G. Menard of James Street, Feeding Hills.

The seven hundred or so plants of the Menard household, which include two hundred and twenty-one varieties, find their surroundings ideal. An enclosed porch on the east side of the house holds row upon row of the violets in every stage of development, while others display their delicate beauty at points of vantage throughout the house. In the winter, the plants on the porch are brought down into the basement where they are treated to fourteen hours a day of fluorescent lighting.

Mr. Menard not only enjoys his wife's prowess with her plants but raises some of his own, the gloxinia, a sort of cousin of the violets. His collection is, as yet, small in comparison, but his green thumb is equally verdant.

Friendliness comes easily to gardeners, and the Menards find that folks who drop in to admire their posies exhibit a camaraderie that is precious indeed. Too, Mrs. Menard is a member of the African Violet Society of America, and is a vice-president of the African Violet Society of Pioneer Valley.

Through the societies, Mrs. Menard has met, even though by mail, several violet hobbyists who have become close friends. There is Joy Hutson of Luton, Bedfordshire, England, for example, with whom Mrs. Menard exchanges leaf cuttings as well as family chit-chat, and Mrs. Catherine Shepherd of Arlington, Virginia. Mrs. Shepherd is planning a visit to Feeding Hills and the Menards.

Rumors concerning propagation turn out not to be rumors at all, Mrs. Menard informs us, but amazing actualities. Plants do grow from leaves, crowns will rot should they become wet, and the plants are shrinking violets, indeed, when it comes to direct sunlight.

Leaves plucked and planted in dampened vermiculite (a preparation well known to violet growers) will bring forth as many as five plantlets each. Mrs. Menard has one leaf which boasts seven youngsters. The parent leaf, never weary

of well doing, separated from its plantlets, can be replanted and is soon hard at work raising a new family.

When the baby plants start to show at the side of the leaf, they are transplanted, leaf and all, into potting soil. When three inches high the new plants are separated and given individual pots. Now the plants are on their own!

How to water? Yes, you must be careful not to wet the plant's crown, emphasizes Mrs. Menard. The safest way is to pour tepid water into the pots' saucers and allow the water to stand until the soil seems well moistened. Empty out any remaining water after this stage has been reached. Occasionally sprinkle the plants well, advises Mr. Menard by tilting the pot so that the water runs off immediately. Too, surface watering is advisable once in a while to wash down any fertilizer that may have been added.

Every one of the Menard plants exhibit perfection of leaf and exquisite flower from Frosty to the Star Sapphire. The Star belongs to aristocracy! It, along with others, has its name registered and cannot be sold without a patent stick stuck into its soil -- even a leaf from a registered plant must be accompanied by this symbol.

Four years of being African violet enthusiasts have brought to the Menards the sense of fulfillment that comes when beauty has been sought and achieved.

THE END

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JOBBER TERRITORIES OPEN

African Violet Tears

Dorothy Teller Lund, N. Highlands, Calif.

I was happily sitting in my place on the window sill that fateful afternoon. Although it was a bleak November day outside, I felt snug and contented and was enjoying watching the children next door playing. Then it struck; complete and irreconcilable disaster. My kindly and loving owner was dead. Now, never let it be said that only human beings and animals can grieve for a loved one, for I am sure that no creature on earth has ever felt sadder nor as completely bereft as I, an African violet, did when I heard the news.

Old Mrs. Hartman and I had lived alone in her sparkling little house for several years, and although I do not know too much about my background I can recall her saying that she had raised me lovingly and tenderly since I was but a leaf in a small glass of water. She was childless but always seemed happier in her way of life than many of the women with families who came to see her from time to time. She was quite elderly, I knew, for I had watched her as she sat with others at the table beneath my sill in the breakfast nook pouring tea for some friend or neighbor, and her hand was more than a trifle unsteady. Also, I noticed that it took her some time to walk from one room to another. Still, she never complained and devoted herself to her small outside garden; the husky split-leaf philodendron which sat watchfully in the corner opposite me; and myself. She often told me that she would have had some companions for me on the sill, but she didn't want to assume more than she could cope with. And besides, as she always added, she did love me so very much and was perfectly contented with having only me. I, too, was content.

Yes, our life together was a full and happy one and that is why I could not seem to bear the thought of going on without her. Anyway, I thought frantically as I heard the two wives of Mrs. Hartman's nephews discussing her death with great emphasis on her belongings, what will become of me? I disliked these two women, that much I knew! Disliking people was really not at all my nature, as a matter of fact, but I realized as they sat there unfeelingly pouring out cups of tea, eating my late mistress' jelly-roll, and recklessly handling her precious dishes, I had only seen these women two or three times in my entire life, and I was at least three years old! And they lived right here in town. I know because I had heard Mrs. Hartman say so. They never came to see her or bothered with her, and their husbands to whom the old woman had always been so devoted were obviously weak, for

they treated her as shamefully as their wives. Now, however, I could not help but noticing they were all interest and concern. Interested in what they would get, and concerned over just how much there was to get.

I sat there miserably as the two overweight women discussed "poor, dear Aunt Jenny's" belongings, and how bad it made them feel to even touch them . . . and I wanted to die. Yes, if I had only had the strength and means to accomplish it, I would have hurled myself from my home on the sill and broken into a million pieces . . . pot, soil, and all. But I could not. I could only sit there hour in and hour out, praying.

Not only was my mental state a sad one, but this was Mrs. Hartman's day for giving me a drink of water and I was a bit dry. The scavengers passed by me time after time without so much as a glance. I cried out several times, but unlike my kindly owner, they did not seem to hear me. The house was in complete disarray and remained so for several days. Yes, in all this time no one had given me water or even noticed me. I was really feeling rather ill. And one of them heartlessly took my friend the philodendron from the corner he had guarded ever since I could remember, and not only was I dry, unhappy and lonesome, I was terribly frightened all night without him. I presume he landed in one of their homes, perish the thought, for I remember their having exclaimed from the first about how glamorous he would be in a front room! Now, I am not the jealous type, believe me, and if he had a chance to get another home and perhaps be happy I did not begrudge him this (although I could not see how he could tolerate these people) but it was a bit deflating not even to be noticed. I realized I was not what is known as a name variety, but I was pretty . . . I knew that. Mrs. Hartman always told me so. At least I was pretty, but from all this neglect I was no doubt like a weed by this time!

When the last of my owner's belongings were disbursed, at least five days after her death, and at a time when I thought each breath would surely be my last and hoped it would be, one of the nieces, the fatter of the two, glanced at me saying, "Oh, I suppose we have to do something with that plant in the window."

I did not like the sound of this, but I thought wearily whatever is in store for me . . . get it over with!

"Some kind of violet, isn't it?" the other one asked dully.

"Doesn't look so hot to me," the first one remarked crudely, "and dry as a bone too!" She took a small glass from the box of packed dishes on the floor and filled it with cold water.

Doesn't she know I'm not supposed to have cold water I thought, dreading the feel of it. As she carelessly splashed it all over my crown and leaves, getting far more on them than on my soil, I shuddered and shivered. Perhaps, I told myself, it would have been better if they hadn't bothered. They went on then with the pronouncement of my fate.

"Well, I don't have room for it, I know that... and wouldn't know what to do with it anyway," the stouter one remarked.

"Amen," I said silently.

Suddenly I felt clumsy fingers grab hold of my pot and I heard, "Well, I'll take it along then. Maybe I can stick it somewhere."

Soon I was in a car and then carried haphazardly into a small frame house and jammed into a corner amongst boxes of what I presumed was "the loot" from Mrs. Hartman's. Well, at least, I thought, I am among friends for awhile being near my beloved owner's things. But then I noticed how dark this corner was and I realized if I were to survive I would have to be moved to a light place.

The days and nights that followed in the home of my so-called new owner, Mrs. Cadman (and how fitting a name that was) were hideous beyond belief. And I never saw my friend the philodendron again. I was moved to a bottom shelf of a bookcase in the small room used as a den. A dark, dreary room I might add. I was so disconsolate and utterly ill I actually prayed that my untimely end would come soon. And as for the drinks of water sloppily tossed over me every three or four days I can hardly bear to speak of them. After the abject terror of the first night or two of being alone in a strange and unfriendly place I got so I could sleep. And, probably as a result of the awful drinks I got and terrible location, I felt sleepy most of the day too. After all, what else was there to do? I had no place to look except at a dismal looking tan footstool which stood not far from the bookcase. The footstool, which sometimes had unimaginative appearing men's feet on it when the nephew was reading the evening paper, was a far cry from my happy home on the sill with its glistening window. I suddenly felt old, so old and unnecessary. No one ever really noticed me except to make disparaging remarks like the time the nephew said, "Why don't we throw that moth-eaten looking old thing out?"

Well, if he only knew, I didn't care for his looks either! And also, if I did look bad, it was

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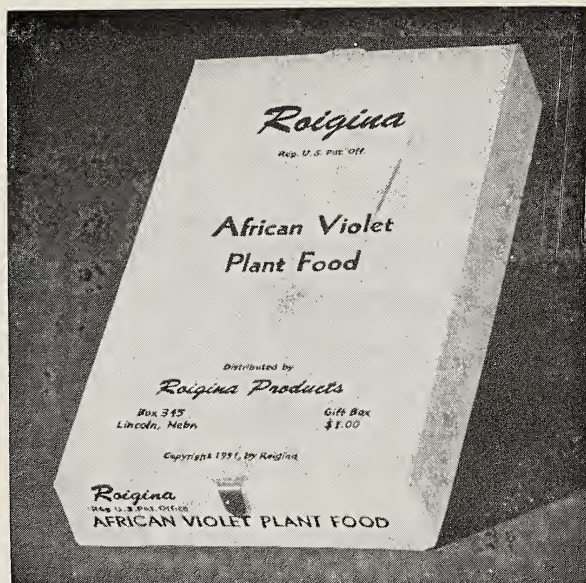
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due to their hideous lack of care . . . and love. I was a nice, firm, healthy plant when my Mrs. Hartman was living . . . I knew that! My feeling of dejection was so great, I would not have cared if I had been taken over by nematodes or even Cyclamen mites! At least they knew what they were doing.

Then one day several weeks later, when I was in a pretty sad state, Mrs. Cadman was showing a friend of hers through the house. When they reached the den, I heard her say, "Let's sit down here a minute while I look through the photograph album for that picture you mentioned." The woman sat down in the easy chair across from me and said, "Good. I'll bet we'll get a good laugh out of it."

While she was waiting for Mrs. Cadman to finish rummaging through the album, she looked idly over at me. "My, my, Ethel, I didn't know you were taking up horticulture." I detected sarcasm in her voice.

Looking up quickly and tossing me a depreciating glance, Mrs. Cadman answered, "Oh that Arabian violet . . . or whatever it is? Isn't it frightful! It's one of Aunt Jenny's brainchilds. I'm about ready to give it the 'heave-ho'."

I lifted myself out of the lethargy I was in just long enough to snarl. I knew she couldn't hear me anyway . . . and even if she did, she couldn't do much worse to me than she already had. Trying to take as calm an outlook of the situation as I could I told myself that this "heave-ho" business doubtless meant the garbage can . . . and what difference did it make anyway?

As the two women sat looking and laughing at the snapshot of themselves evidently taken a few years before, the doorbell rang.

The caller said, "Oh, that's probably Della. She said she'd pick me up at three and I guess it's about that now! You won't know her, Ethel, she's quite a young lady now. She has a cute house, and my son-in law is just a peach!"

As they walked together out of the den toward the front door, I informed myself rather disinterestedly that Della was undoubtedly the caller's daughter. Having acquainted myself with this fact, I settled back into my semi-consciousness of misery. Then chattering voices were approaching the den again, and I heard Mrs. Cadman say, "You'll just die at this picture of your mother and me taken about ten years ago!"

But almost before those words were out of her mouth, it happened. The girl let out a sound that was between a shriek of pity and a murmur of love. The next thing I knew she had picked me up and I was looking into the sweetest face I had seen in a long time. It was a young, soft looking face with kind brown eyes.

"Oh you poor, poor darling," she said tenderly.

I felt in that instant a rejuvenated pang of life surge through me.

Della's mother looked annoyed at what her daughter said. "Whatever do you mean, poor, poor darling?" she asked almost severely.

Della, apparently realizing that she might have sounded as though she were criticising her hostess, said quickly, "I mean this adorable plant. This precious African violet. It just looks like it isn't doing too well. I didn't mean it as a criticism."

Ethel Cadman shrugged, "Well, I don't care anyway, Della. The old thing's about dead. Almost an eye-sore. I'm thinking of throwing it out this afternoon. And then in a tone of amazement she added, "You mean you like the thing?"

Della said in an almost reverent tone, "Like it! Why, African violets are the loveliest of God's creatures. My house is filled with them. They're like . . . why, they're like children to me. Oh, Mrs. Cadman, this really is a lovely plant. How I would love to have it and nurse it back to health again. May I?"

"Heaven's sake child," Mrs. Cadman said, "It's yours. But I can't understand all this fuss about it. I can't see either how you will ever make it come back to life."

Della smiled confidently, "Oh, I know I can. You see they are very special and take special care. They need light . . . and, well, I just know I'll bring it back to the lovely thing it really is."

In a matter of minutes, I was tenderly driven to a lovely little house that wore an air of welcome about it.

I was placed on a wide, glass shelf in a heavenly light-filled window . . . right in the center. On either side, only not touching me, were companions, happy, happy little violets. There were white ones, pink, lavender, doubles, singles . . . just all kinds, and they welcomed me so graciously and expressed concern over my state of health.

The lovely Azure Beauty next to me said, "Oh, you'll pick up in no time. Della is so kind and loving . . . and so intellectual. She knows more about us than we do!"

Then a narrow spout tenderly gave me a refreshing lukewarm drink of water with something or other in it that gave me a wonderful feeling. I stretched out contentedly and knew that this was going to be as near Heaven as I could ever ask to be.

"I'm going to get well," I said to Della after she had finished with my drink and stood looking at me. "I'm going to get well, and I'll bring you pleasure. I . . ."

Della reached up and patted the pot tenderly. "I know you will be well in no time," she said softly, "And you've brought me pleasure already . . . but you mustn't talk anymore now for you need to rest; you're still quite weak."

For you see, Della just like dear old Mrs. Hartman heard everything I said . . . for she was a true African violet lover . . . another of God's loveliest creatures!

THE END

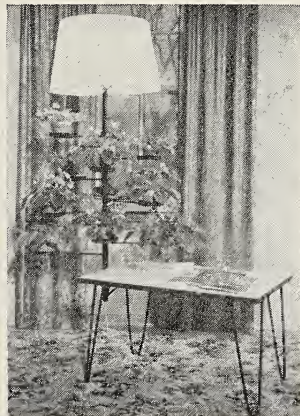
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Figure 1. The author is shown demonstrating the manner in which the treated cuttings were handled.

Evaluation Of Chemical Rooting Agents In Rooting Saintpaulia

Daniel E. Smith

Many experimental reports of chemical root stimulation have been presented since Zimmerman and Hitchcock (1933) first demonstrated that root formation may be chemically induced in vegetative cuttings. Commercial products now available enable the plant propagator to take advantage of these time saving rooting agents. The few reports of experimental research of rooting Saintpaulia with auxins (more commonly known as rooting hormones) indicate that even though roots may be stimulated, shoot growth is not aided (Warner and Went, 1939). The purpose of the research reported in this paper is to find just exactly what are the benefits of chemical rooting agents in hastening the development of new plants from Saintpaulia cuttings.

Method

The experiments were for the most part conducted from March through July of 1953 at the Purdue University Horticultural Greenhouses in Lafayette, Indiana. Standard African violet cultural practices were used in growing the plant material. Mature, uniform leaf-petiole cuttings were selected from vigorously growing Saintpaulia stock plants of the variety "Purple Beauty." For the sake of convenience and uniform treatment, the cuttings were merely stood in glassware containing the treatment solution with the petioles extending one-half inch into the solu-

tion. After soaking for twenty-four hours, the cuttings (fifteen per treatment) were removed and immediately placed in the rooting medium consisting of equal parts by volume of white sand and expanded mica. Small individual flats were used for each treatment plot. Sterilized materials were used as a precautionary measure. (See Figure 1).

It was first necessary to determine the relative concentration of auxin most favorable for rooting. As a representative rooting agent, indolebutyric acid was chosen not only because it is an excellent rooting agent but also because it is readily available to growers in commercial forms. In addition to the auxin test, a series of concentrations of sucrose (a form of sugar) and arginine (an organic nitrogenous compound) were included in the experiment. That sugars and compounds of nitrogen promote the development of roots on vegetative cuttings was demonstrated by Van Overbeek et al (1946).

The primary experiment consisted of the following treatments: A concentration series of 1, 10, 40 and 100 parts per million of indolebutyric acid (IBA); a similar series using arginine; a series using 0.25, 1, 4 and 10 per cent sucrose; a series combining sucrose and arginine;





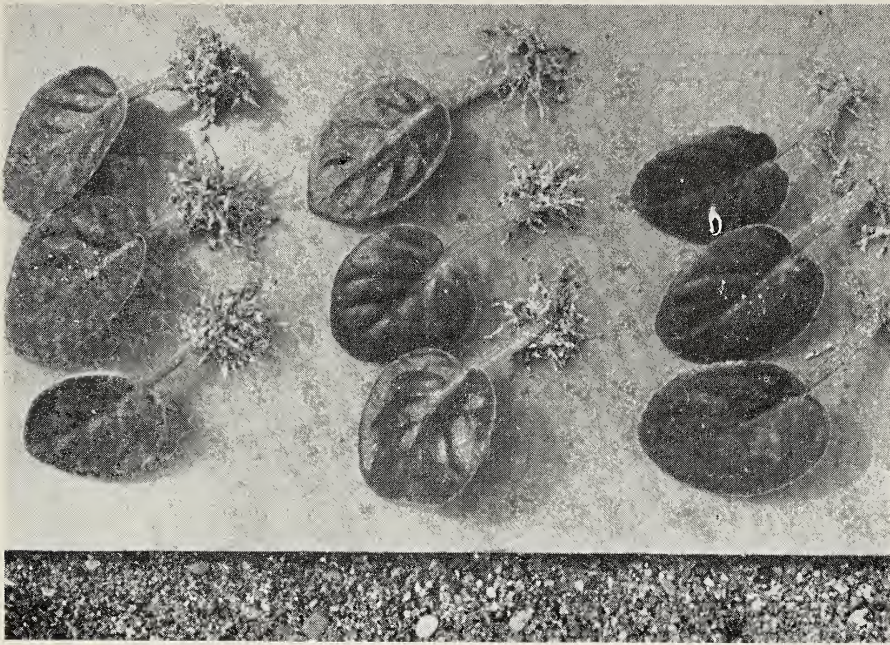


Figure 2. Effect of indolebutyric acid on Saintpaulia cuttings treated three weeks previously with (left to right) water, 10ppm IBA and 40ppm IBA.

and finally a series combining all three substances. Five additional flats containing cuttings treated only in pure water served as check or control plots.

At the end of three weeks the cuttings were removed and the number of roots and the length of the longest root were recorded for each cutting. The cuttings were then carefully replaced in the same flats. Four weeks later or seven weeks after treatment, the cuttings were removed for the tabulation of the number of stem buds or developing shoots. Later experiments were performed in like manner.

Results and Discussion

As the results in Figure 3 clearly show, indolebutyric acid greatly stimulated root formation. The cuttings treated with 40ppm IBA (40 parts per million of indolebutyric acid) had an average of twenty-eight roots per cutting as compared with approximately seven roots on the cuttings receiving no auxin. In Figure 2, the photograph compares the cuttings soaked in IBA solutions with cuttings soaked in water only. Arginine or sucrose alone or combined had little or no effect on number of roots produced. However, when indolebutyric acid at 40ppm was combined with the arginine at 40ppm and sucrose at 4 per cent, the number of roots jumped to an average of forty-two roots per cutting -- much better than the auxin alone. At the highest concentrations the petioles of the cuttings were injured and in some cases burned very severely which resulted in fewer roots.

Our elation over the excellent root stimulation lasted only until the young plants began to appear. As the results in Figure 4 indicate, the higher the concentration of indolebutyric acid, the lower the number of stem buds. The effect of sucrose and arginine alone, although somewhat erratic, did not differ greatly with the check average of approximately ten shoots per cutting. Together arginine and sucrose seem to promote stem bud development, especially when in combination with IBA, where these accessory substances apparently overcome some of the bud inhibiting effect of the IBA. The sharp increase in number of buds at 100ppm over 40ppm of this combination may be explained in part by the injury and death of much of the petiole with subsequent development of many inferior young plants very near or at the base of the leaf blade.

The photographs in Figures 5 and 6 were taken eight weeks after the cuttings were treated. The check treatment in Figure 5 shows the cuttings rooted normally with the new plants arising from the base of the petiole. The cuttings receiving 10ppm IBA are heavily rooted with more vigorous shoots though somewhat fewer in number. In the 40ppm IBA treatment, the shoot development is nearly entirely inhibited and only a great mass of roots are present on the cutting after eight weeks growth. The photograph in Figure 6 reveals differences not at all evident in the graphs. The cuttings treated with 10ppm of IBA and arginine plus one per cent sucrose are far more advanced in vigor, root and shoot growth than the water treatment. At the higher

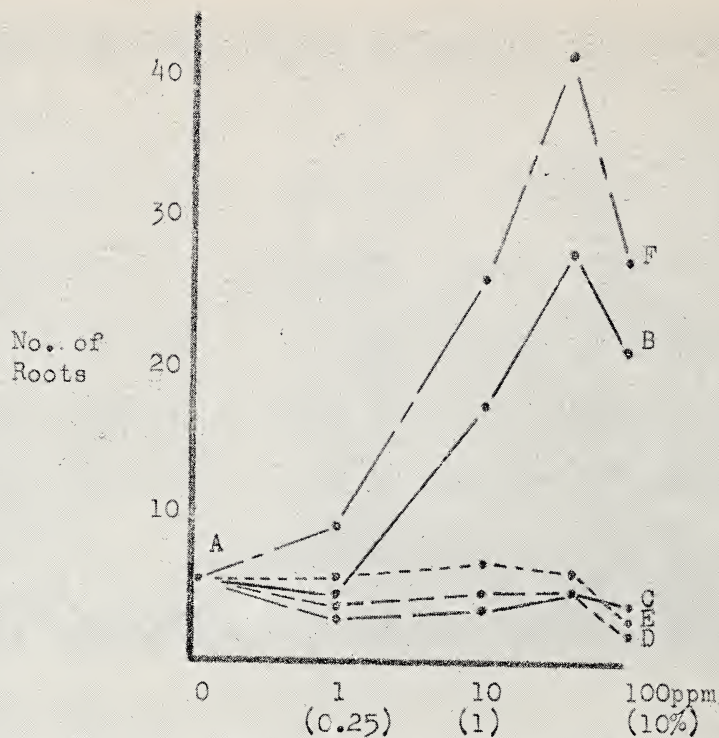


Figure 3: Rooting response of cuttings treated three weeks previously with A, water; B, IBA; C, Arginine; D, sucrose; E, arginine + sucrose; and F, IBA + arginine + sucrose.

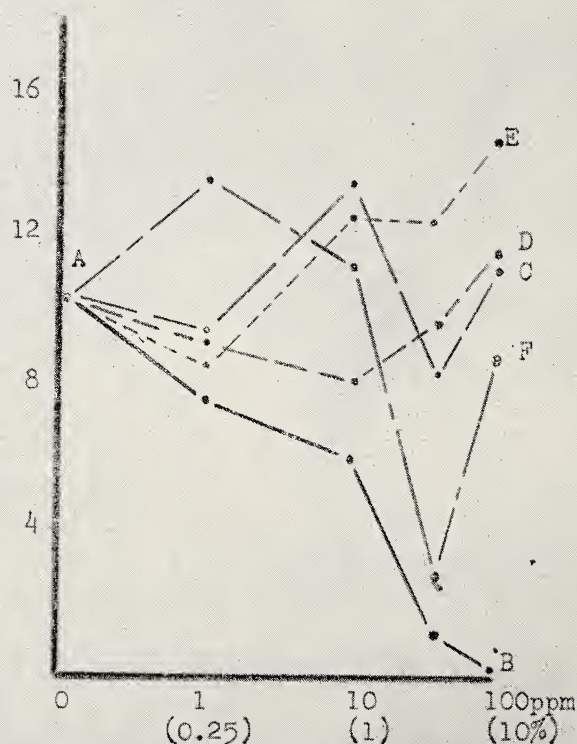


Figure 4: Shoot production on cuttings treated seven weeks previously with A, water; B, IBA; C, arginine; D, sucrose; E, arginine + sucrose; and F, IBA + arginine + sucrose.

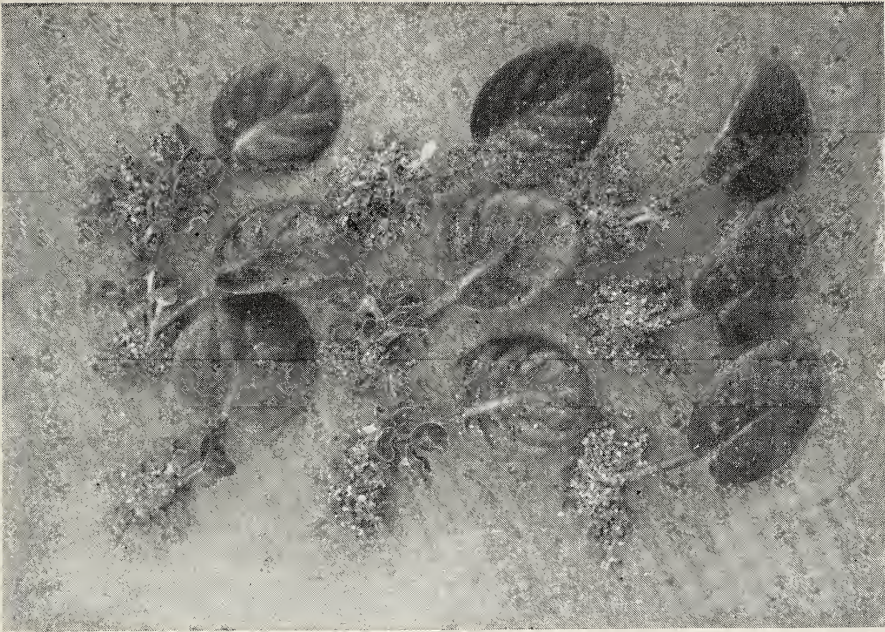


Figure 5: Shoot development on cuttings treated eight weeks previously with (left to right) water, 10ppm IBA, and 40ppm IBA..



Figure 6: Shoot development on cuttings treated eight weeks previously with (left to right) water, 10ppm IBA + 10ppm arginine + 1% sucrose, and 40ppm IBA + 40ppm arginine + 4% sucrose.

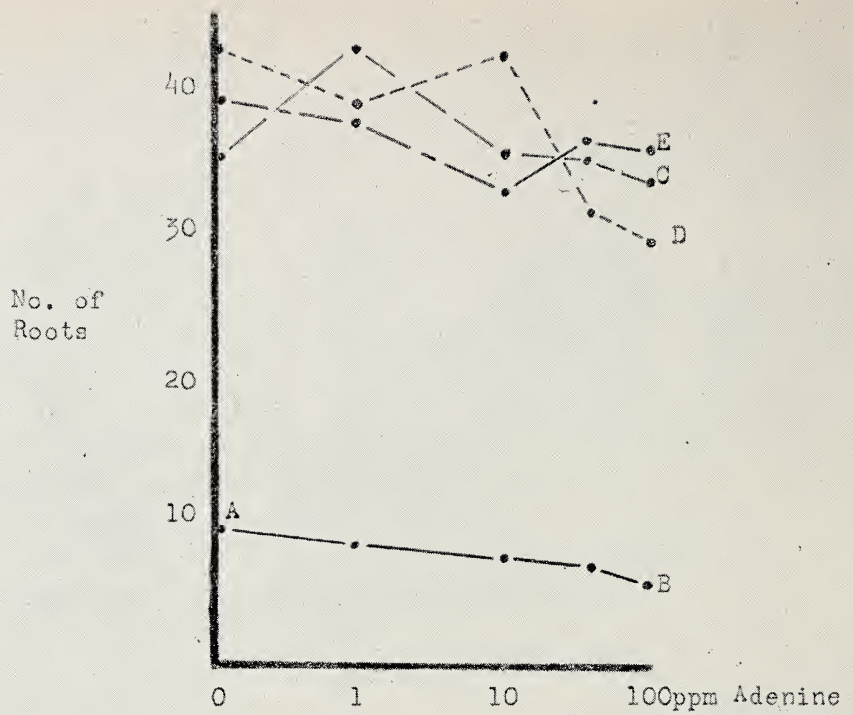


Figure 7: Rooting response three weeks after treatment with A, water; B, adenine; C, adenine / 40ppm IBA; D, adenine / 40ppm IBA / 4% sucrose; E, adenine / 40ppm IBA / 4% sucrose / 40ppm arginine.

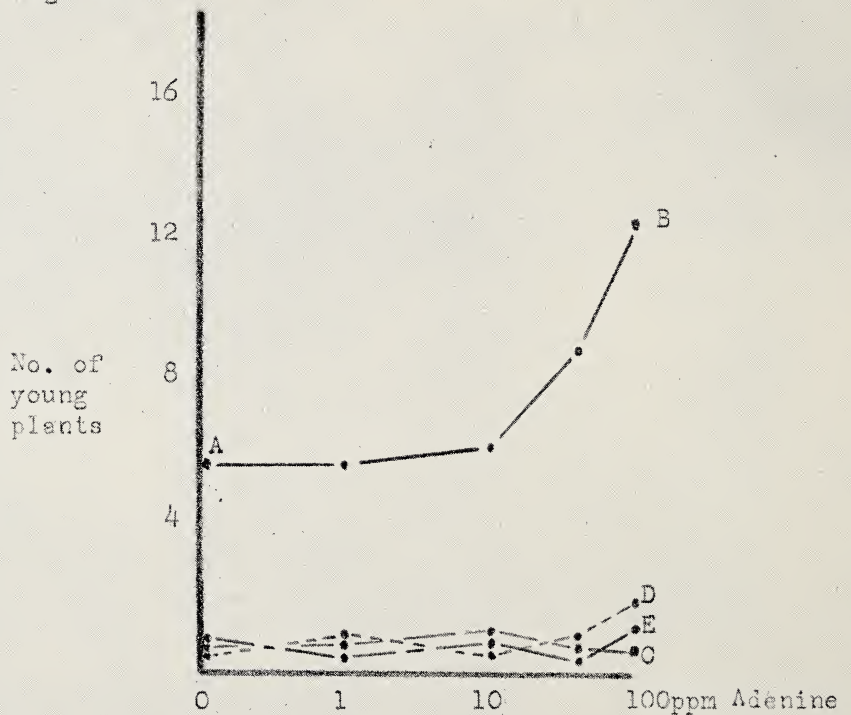


Figure 8: Development of young plants three weeks after treatment with A, water; B, adenine; C, adenine / 40ppm IBA; D, adenine / 40ppm IBA / 4% sucrose; E, adenine / 40ppm IBA / 4% sucrose / 40ppm arginine.

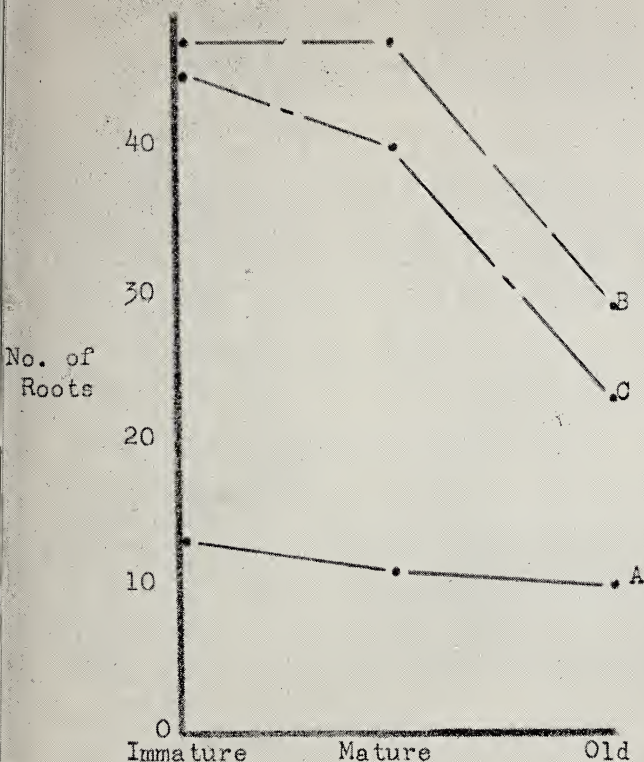


Figure 9:

Effect of leaf maturity on response to chemical stimulants of cuttings treated three weeks (Fig.9) and seven weeks (Fig. 10) previously. Treatment A, water; B, 40ppm IBA + arginine at 40ppm + 4% sucrose; C, 40ppm IBA + 40ppm arginine + 4% sucrose + 40ppm adenine..

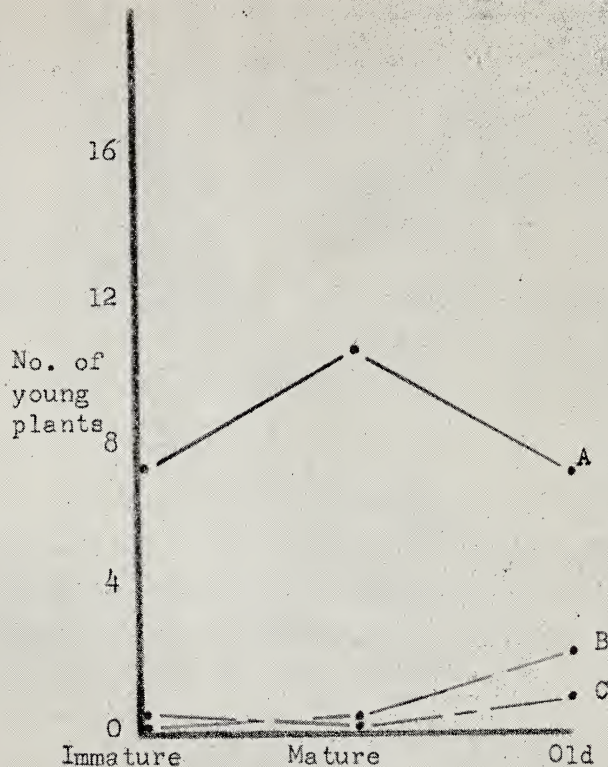


Figure 10:

concentration, however, the inhibiting effect of IBA prevented the formation of new plants.

Differences in maximum root length between different treatments were not significant. In general, regardless of treatment, root length decreased as solution concentration increased.

The startling results of the preliminary experiment led to a drastic revision of the plan of research. Undoubtedly indolebutyric acid greatly hastens rooting of Saintpaulia cuttings but the inhibition of the shoot development apparently offsets any benefits derived therefrom. Although the presence of arginine and sucrose overcame much of the shoot inhibiting effect of the IBA, our attention was turned toward finding a substance that would promote better bud formation.

The findings of Skoog (1944, 1948) led us to try adenine, a compound demonstrated by Skoog as highly promotive of bud formation. The following experiment was then devised: Adenine alone at 1, 10, 40 and 100 parts per million; IBA

constant at 40ppm plus adenine 1 to 100ppm; 40ppm IBA and four per cent sucrose plus adenine 1 to 100ppm; and finally a combination of 40ppm IBA and arginine and four per cent sucrose with adenine varying.

The results in Figure 7 obtained three weeks after cuttings were made, indicate that adenine alone has no root stimulation effect; in fact, root formation was inhibited somewhat as compared to the check treatment average of ten roots per cuttings. The root inhibiting effect of increased concentrations of adenine are also evident in the treatments containing IBA. The presence of IBA, however, immediately stimulates many roots.

Three weeks later or six weeks after cuttings were treated, the results shown in Figure 8 were obtained. The amazing demonstration that adenine in this experiment apparently promoted bud development is clearly seen on the graph. From the check average of six young plants per cutting to twice as many at 100ppm adenine. Since no injury was noted to the cuttings, it is quite pos-

sible that higher concentrations of adenine may have even a greater effect on bud development.

In this experiment as shown in Figures 7 and 8, the addition of arginine and sucrose did not greatly alter the number of roots produced. The higher carbohydrate reserve in the leaves resulting from the brighter, longer days in early summer or a sufficient level of nitrogen in stock plants may have been factors affecting the results. Certainly the presence of adenine may have been influential.

An interesting question arose pertaining to what stage of maturity would cuttings root the best. In an attempt to find the answer, the following experiment was devised: Immature, mature, and old leaf petioles were treated with water only; with 40ppm IBA plus 40ppm arginine plus four per cent sucrose; and with the same materials plus forty per cent adenine. The results in Figure 9 shows that the immature cuttings (only one-half the size of the mature cuttings at the time of treatment) and the mature cuttings (normal sized, healthy leaves) rooted much better than the old leaves (healthy cuttings but very large) when treated with auxin. Without the treatment, the difference is slight. In Figure 10, the inhibiting effect of the auxin upon bud development is seen. Again the old leaves are not affected by the auxin as much as the younger cuttings.

Summary and Conclusions

This work with Saintpaulia was designed to evaluate the use of chemical agents in rooting the leaf-petiole cuttings. We found that the auxin indolebutyric acid greatly stimulated root formation on the Saintpaulia variety "Purple Beauty." The addition of the accessory substances sucrose and arginine resulted in even better root produc-

tion. Sucrose and arginine alone were not effective. Adenine inhibited root development slightly.

Indolebutyric acid inhibited bud development on the Saintpaulia cuttings. The addition of sucrose and arginine were effective in partially overcoming the inhibiting effect of the auxin. The compound adenine when used alone greatly stimulated shoot development. In the concentrations used, adenine did not effectively overcome the shoot inhibiting effect of indolebutyric acid.

We found both immature and mature cuttings more responsive to chemical stimulants than old cuttings.

From the results obtained in this experiment, we may conclude that the benefits gained in faster rooting of Saintpaulia leaf-petiole cuttings by treating the cuttings with over 10ppm indolebutyric acid for twenty-four hours do not outweigh the disadvantage of slower and less shoot formation. However, when so treated with concentrations at or lower than 10ppm and especially when accessory sugar and nitrogen compounds are included, indolebutyric acid is quite beneficial in leaf-petiole propagation of Saintpaulia.

The quicker rooting obtained with the auxin definitely resulted in more vigorous young plants on this Saintpaulia variety even though the formation of these plants was delayed. Further research with compounds such as adenine may lead to combination of a shoot stimulating substance with the rooting auxin. Such a combination, if practical, may be highly beneficial in rooting Saintpaulia.

I should like to express my gratitude to the African Violet Society who supplied the necessary funds and stock plants and to Dr. A. C. Leopold and Professor E. R. Honeywell of Purdue University who through their counsel and advice made this work possible.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Plants	Rooted Leaves	Leaves
--------	---------------	--------

Not listed in spring price list -- Rooted leaves 75¢ each -- Ohio Bountiful, Mr. Chicago, Miss St. Louis, Miss New York, and Blushing.

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LITERATURE CITED

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THE END

OVERFEEDING?

Alice Wray Taylor, Nashville, Tenn.

Many of us have wondered for quite some time why some varieties of African violets were not more stable as to color. I think that I may have discovered an answer to this question. I wouldn't presume to think this is the only answer, but I would like to tell you of my findings and my conclusions for what they are worth.

Early in the autumn (1953) I decided to try to get the violets in my basement off to a good start by fertilizing them. I had bought a certain fertilizer recommended for foliar feeding of my outdoor flowers. I read the directions on the jar for feeding of houseplants (not foliar feeding) and followed them, although I suspected the solution might be a little strong. In about two weeks new buds began to appear and in time blooms opened. On two plants I noticed a drastic change in color. These two plants were Double Ruffled White, which turned from almost pure white to nearly solid blue, and Azure Beauty, which changed from white with a touch of blue to almost solid red. Not only did the blossoms change, but the petioles took on the dark color you expect in dark-colored violets and the leaves turned noticeably darker instead of remaining the light green color characteristic of such varieties. The more stable varieties such as Forget-me-not, Pink Luster, Blue Warrior, etc., were seemingly not affected. I had long suspected that there might be a connection between fertilization and such changes, as I had noticed that the people who complained most of the instability of some varieties of violets seemed to be those people who had a severe fertilizing program. My experience certainly seems to confirm that suspicion. I should add that I used this strong fertilizer only once. More than one such feeding might have burned up the roots. But the change in these plants seems to be permanent -- the lower leaves and petioles are the normal color, but all new leaves, petioles, and blossoms are dark. About two months later the Pink Cheer that was brought back from the Chicago Convention underwent a strange change. The new petioles and blossoms were blood-red with the underside of the leaves the same gorgeous color, and the blossoms are a beautiful claret red with a wide pink border. I really think this is a result of shock from that same over fertilization, but since the change was so long delayed, I can't be as positive.

I have heard the theory advanced that the aging of a plant is largely responsible for such color change, but I can't in any way support this theory for two very good reasons: (1) I have two plants that have been very much maligned for their instability, Purity and Painted Girl, that

didn't get that stiff dose of food, are over two years old, and still the same color as when they first bloomed (the color is true); (2) the change in my plants was very rapid and couldn't possibly be attributed to age. However, I feel that a regular program of strong fertilization could cause a much more gradual change and still not be blamed on age.

Of course, this sudden change might not have taken place had my soil been chemically different. I have had it analyzed and find it high in phosphorus and potash with a pH of 6. My soil contains a good proportion of organic matter in the form of well rotted manure and leafmold from hardwood trees, which indicates a fair amount of nitrogen. The fertilizer used has a formula of 13-26-13 which is similar to a number of fertilizers recommended especially for African violets and is exactly the same as one of these.

All of these facts only serve to confirm my convictions that overfeeding is largely responsible for these heretofore unexplained changes in our beloved violets. What do you think?

THE END

African

Violets

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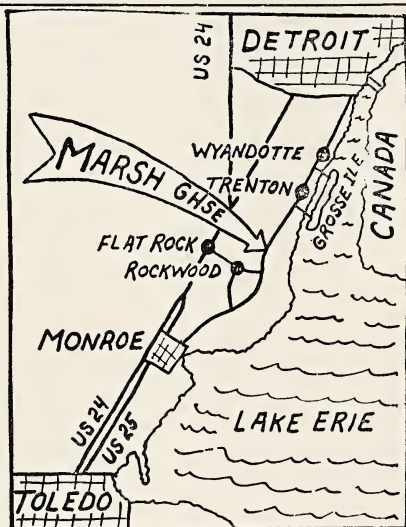
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- 1 Choice Blooming Plant*
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- 1 Catalogue and Growing Comments

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*Will be distinctly different if you tell us what varieties you now have. We KNOW you will be pleased.

Marsh Greenhouses
ROCKWOOD, MICH.

THERE'S A MORAL TO THIS STORY

An African violet lady, getting ready to go on her vacation, saw a few of her plants had a touch of powdery mildew. Feeling that she should not leave them in that way, she decided that she should spray all the plants before she left.

She had a collection of about five hundred or more plants and her little plastic sprayer just wouldn't do the spray job fast enough, so she went out to the garage to get a larger sprayer. There her husband had two nice ones . . . first she was going to take the smaller one, but, no, the bigger one was better.

There was some spray left in it which she washed out real well. Then she put her African violet spray in and covered her beautiful plants . . . some on which she had won prizes at the last African violet show.

Just as she was finishing the spray job, she noticed a piece of tape on the rod . . . she looked at her husband . . . "did you have a weed killer in this sprayer?" Holding her breath, she awaited his answer . . . "yes, there was a 2,4-D solution in it."

So wondering what would happen to her plants, she and her husband left on their vacation . . .

Three weeks later . . . sixty-five plants went into the garbage . . . more look sick. **MORAL** . . . use a special sprayer for your African violets only.

Reported from the August 25, 1954, meeting of the Portland Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

THE END

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REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Phil Libby Registrar, Rt. 1, Box 845, Humble, Texas

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period November 30, 1954, to February 28, 1955.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

- Air Waves** 12-31-54
R. G. Baxter Greenhouses
Rt. 1
New Waterford, Ohio
- Amazon Pink Luster** 12-31-54
Tinari Floral Gardens
Bethayres, Pennsylvania
- Atlanta Peach Girl** 12-31-54
R. G. Baxter Greenhouses
Rt. 1
New Waterford, Ohio
- Alinda** 1-7-55
Mrs. C. L. Hahn
22 Brook Ave.
Basking Ridge, New Jersey
- Bee Lee Tee** 12-31-54
R. G. Baxter Greenhouses
Rt. 1
New Waterford, Ohio
- Black Lace** 12-30-54
Spoutz African Violet Greenhouses
34365 Moravian Drive
Fraser, Michigan
- Calumet Beacon** 12-21-54
Richter's Greenhouse
607 Hoffman Street
Hammond, Indiana
- Corn Husker Rose** 12-23-54
Mrs. T. E. Bivin
318 N. 4th Street
Seward, Nebraska
- Double Arbutus Pink** 12-31-54
R. G. Baxter Greenhouses
Rt. 1
New Waterford, Ohio
- Double Dandy** 1-7-55
Theo. J. Wallsten
Rt. 117
Bolton, Massachusetts
- Double Painted Girl** 12-31-54
Tinari Floral Gardens
Bethayres, Pennsylvania
- Double Wine Velvet** 12-31-54
Tinari Floral Gardens
Bethayres, Pennsylvania
- Ethiopia** 1-7-55
Mrs. C. L. Hahn
22 Brook Avenue
Basking Ridge, New Jersey
- First Love** 2-11-55
Mrs. Florence Peterson
22 Coy Street
Canandaigua, New York
- Florentine** 12-31-54
Tinari Floral Gardens
Bethayres, Pennsylvania
- Gibson Girl** 1-17-55
Spoutz African Violet Greenhouses
34365 Moravian Drive
Fraser, Michigan
- Grand Pacific** 2-26-55
Wm. H. Niemann
416 E. 29th Place
Davenport, Iowa
- Grenadier** 12-21-54
Richter's Greenhouse
607 Hoffman Street
Hammond, Indiana
- Gypsy** 1-17-55
Spoutz African Violet Greenhouses
34365 Moravian Drive
Fraser, Michigan
- Hollys Double** 2-15-55
Mrs. Violet Frathel
252 Clay Street
Rochester 13, New York
- Illini Chieftain** 12-11-54
Mrs. George McIntosh
611 N. Main Street
Normal, Illinois
- Illini Princess** 12-11-54
Mrs. George McIntosh
611 N. Main Street
Normal, Illinois
- Lilac Cluster** 2-5-55
Wm. H. Niemann
416 E. 29th Place
Davenport, Iowa
- Marilyn Kay** 2-28-55
Mary Mayer
1014 Forest Hill Avenue
Calumet City, Illinois
- Miss New York** 12-31-54
The Select Violet House
2023 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, Ohio
- Miss Ontario** 2-11-55
Mrs. Florence Peterson
22 Coy Street
Canandaigua, New York
- Navy Girl** 12-31-54
Tinari Floral Gardens
Bethayres, Pennsylvania
- Ohio Bountiful** 12-31-54
R. G. Baxter Greenhouses
Rt. 1
New Waterford, Ohio
- Old Rose Bouquet** 12-31-54
Tinari Floral Gardens
Bethayres, Pennsylvania
- Philadelphia Belle** 12-31-54
Tinari Floral Gardens
Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Pretty Penny 12-2-54
 Mrs. Ray Rivenburg
 24 Highland
 Fort Johnson, N. Y.

Red Beauty 2-11-55
 Yoars Houseplant Nursery
 Bunker Hill, Indiana

Rosalie 2-11-55
 Yoars Houseplant Nursery
 Bunker Hill, Indiana

Select Double Garnet 12-31-54
 The Select Violet House
 2023 Belmont Avenue
 Youngstown, Ohio

Serenity 12-11-54
 Mrs. George McIntosh
 611 N. Main Street
 Normal, Illinois

Sugar Babe 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Taj Mahal 12-21-54
 Richter's Greenhouse
 607 Hoffman Street
 Hammond, Indiana

Tinari's Geneva Trailer 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Tinari's Royal Blue Trailer 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Tinari's Snow Trailer 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Tinari's Sky Blue Trailer 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Tinari's Star Trailer 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Tinari's Wild Rose Girl 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Venice Blue 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

White Pearl 12-31-54
 Tinari Floral Gardens
 Bethayres, Pennsylvania

Yoars Beauty 2-11-55
 Yoars Houseplant Nursery
 Bunker Hill, Indiana

Zuelma 12-1-54
 Miss Zuelma Simpson
 Rt. 8
 Greeneville, Tennessee

PART II

The following NAME RESERVATIONS have been received during this period:

American Heritage	Easter Bride
Autumnglow	Easter Glory Road
Blue Formal	Easter Morn
Blue Sensation	Easter Parade
Can Can	Easter Song
Dainty Gem	Easter Sunday Best

Easter Wedding	Ohio Princess
Joy's Blue Midnight	Ohio Queen
Keepsake	Ohio Show
Miss Ohio	Pink Cloud
Misty Morn	Pink Ice
Ohio Beauty	Pride 'N Joy
Ohio Belle	Red Ted
Ohio Fashion	Royal Glory
Ohio King	So Big
Ohio Prima Donna	Spitfire
Ohio Prince	Sweet Harmony

PART III

The following names have been NAME PROTECTED in the Master File from time to time; but these cards have no information as to parentage, originator, introducer, nor color of blossom or leaves, in fact nothing. It is desired to have a Master File with as much complete information as may be had for future reference and use of the Society. Therefore, it is desired that anyone having information on these plants, any knowledge whatsoever, should send it to the Registrar, so that it may be added to the present card. It will be appreciated.

A	Blue Bird Amazon
Achler's Lavender	Blue Bobby
Actress	Blue Bobby Amazon
Afterglow	Blue Bonnet
Agate	Blue Boy Profuse
Akron Girl	Blue Brocade
Albino	Blue Butterfield
Alma's Girl	Blue Butterfly
Alpine Blue	Blue Champion
Alzada	Blue Chard
Amarantha	Blue Dainty Maid
Amazon Blue	Blue Dazzler
Amazon Blue Eyes	Blue Dee
Amazon Blue Girl	Blue Delphinium
Amazon Blush	Blue Diamond
Amazon Gorgeous	Blue Dot
Amazon Ionaantha	Blue Dream Amazon
Amazon Kewensis	Blue Duchess
Amazon King Neptune	Bluette
Amazon Old Lace	Blue Eyed Beauty Amazon
Amazon Pink Lady	Blue Eyed Girl Amazon
Amazon Purple Prince	Blue Eyed Sue
Amazon Queen	Blue Eyes, Amazon
Amazon Surprise	Blue Eyes, Supreme
Amazon Topaz	Blue Flame
Amazon Violet Beauty	Blue Geyser
Amazon White	Blue Girl Amazon
America	Blue Girl Baby
American Beauty	Blue Girl Compacta
American Girl	Blue Girl Hybrid
Amethyst Amazon	Blue Hydrangea
Amethyst Beauty	Blue Goddess
Amethyst Blue	Blue Jewel
Amethyst Pink	Blue Jane
Amethyst Improved or Spoon	Blue King
Amethyst Supreme	Blue Lavender
Anemone	Blue Lavender Fringette
Angel Face	Blue Moire Butterfly
Angelon	Blue Mammoth
Arrowhead	Blue Monday
Aureol	Blue Moire
Azure Glory	Blue Moon
B	Blue Number 2
Baby Blue	Blue Number 3
Baby's Breath	Blue Number 32
Beads	Blue Pet
Begonia Bell	Blue Ribbon Girl
Belle	Blue Ripple
Betty Joe	Blue Satin
Bi-Color Amazon	Blue Scoop
Bi-Color DuPont	Blue Shadows
Big Chief	Blue Skies
Black Flounce	Blue Sombrero
Black Gem	Blue Spoon
Black Magic Amazon	Blue Spurs
Black Tip Girl	Blue Star
Blaze Red	Blue Supreme
Blazing Girl	Blue Treasure Amazon
Blue Amazon	Blue Trilby
Blue Amethyst	Blue Violet
Blue and White	Blue Warrior
Blue Beany	Blue Warrior Amazon
Blue Begonia	Blue Warrior Supreme
Blue Bi-Color	Blue Waterlily

Blue Wonder
Blush
Blush Beauty
Blush Lavender
Blush Orchid
Blush Supreme
Blush Supreme Amazon
Blushing Lady
Blushing Maiden, Supreme
Bobolink
Bonfire
Bolero, Improved
Bountiful
Bouquet Pink
Bouquet Pink Amazon
Boy
Bronze
Bronze Fringette
Bronze Girl Amazon
Bronze Red Girl
Bronze Sailor Girl
Brown's Big Girl
Brown's Blue Missie
Brown's Blue Pet
Brown's Dbl. Black Beauty
Brown's Dot
Brown's Dwarf Pink
Brown's Lilac Princess
Brown's Moire
Brown's Old Lace
Brown's Orchid Beauty
Brown's Orchid Frills
Brown's Palmer Violet
Brown's Pet
Brown's Pet No. 2
Brown's Pink Dot
Brown's Pink Old Lace
Brown's Red Dot
Brown's Red Maid
Brown's Red Moire
Brown's Red Pet
Brown's Red Semi-Dbl.
Brown's Semi-Double
Brown's White Lassie
Brussel Sprouts Amazon
Bugle Girl
Burgundy

C

California Dark Plum
California Dark Periwinkle
California Plum
Cambria
Cameo
Camillion
Carnival Pink
Carolyn R.
Cathedral Wine
Celestial Blue
Chalice
Charles
Charmion
Chard
Chattanooga
Chartreuse
Cherokee
Cherub
Chicago Scoop
Chorus Girl
Claret
Clemo
Clown
Comet
Commodore Amazon
Confederate Grey
Congo Queen
Contrary Mary
Copper Glow
Copper Glow Dbl. Girl
Coquette
Corsage
Craig's Ruby
Crazy Girl
Creation
Crinkles Amazon
Cross Patch
Crystal Blue Double
Cugat Dane
Cupid
Curley Sailor Girl
Curley Special
Curley Twist
Curvacious

D

Dainty Girl
Dainty Lady
Dainty Maid
Dark Blue

Dark Blue Dbl. Fringette
Dark Blue Fringette
Dark Blue Hybrid
Dark Blue Rosette
Dark Lavender
Dark Norseman
Dark Plum
Dark Red Head
Dark Sailor Girl
Darlen
Dawnflower
Delaware
Delight
Delightful
Deluxe Snow Girl
Denver Red
Detroit
Detroit White Girl
Dickson Purple
Diplotrica Amazon
Domino
Dbl. Applause
Dbl. California Dark Plum
Dbl. Blue Girl
Dbl. Charlotte
Dbl. Cleone
Dbl. Dark Blue and White
Dbl. Dark Lavender
Dbl. Delight
Dbl. Duchess
Dbl. Duchess Amazon
Dbl. Duchess Supreme
Dbl. Fringed White Leaf
Dbl. Garnet Girl
Dbl. Gee Gee
Dbl. Glory
Dbl. Jerry
Dbl. Jerry-Kewensis
Dbl. Light Blue
Dbl. Light Blue Girl
Dbl. Light Blue and White
Dbl. Light Lavender
Dbl. Mary Wac
Dbl. Mentor Boy
Dbl. Neptune Amazon
Dbl. Neptune Amazon Supreme
Dbl. Orchid
Dbl. Orchid Beauty
Dbl. Orchid Bouquet
Dbl. Orchid Lavender
Dbl. Peter Pan
Dbl. Pink and White
Dbl. Pink Beauty
Dbl. Plum
Dbl. Purple
Dbl. Red Geneva
Dbl. Red Velvet
Dbl. Ruby Bi-Color
Dbl. Ruffles
Dbl. Russian
Dbl. Sport Blue Boy, Supreme
Dbl. Supreme
Dbl. Three
Dbl. Two
Dbl. Two Amazon
Dbl. White
Dbl. White Lace
Dbl. Wonder
Dream Girl
Dresden China
Droopy
Duchess, Amazon
Duke
Duet
DuPont Blue No. 1
DuPont Blue No. 2
DuPont Blue No. 4
DuPont Blue No. 5
DuPont Blue Boy, Supreme
DuPont Blue No. 3
DuPont Fantasy
DuPont Hybrid of Blue Shade No. 1
DuPont Hybrid of Blue Shade No. 2
DuPont Hybrid of Blue Shade No. 3
DuPont Hybrid of Blue Shade No. 4
DuPont Hybrid of Blue Shade No. 5
DuPont Orchid Flute
DuPont Red
DuPont Rose Lavender
DuPont Royal Purple
DuPont Silver Pink
DuPont Supreme
DuPont Tu-Tone
DuPont White
Duchess
Dwarf Baby Pink
Dwarf Boy

Dwarf Orchid Beauty
Dwarf Topaz

E

Early Morn
Easter Bunny
Ebony Prince
Edena Jewel
Edena Honey
Edena Lt. Blue
Edena Lily
Edena Princess
Ethel Hendrix
Ella May
Elsinore
Emerald
Emily Jane
Enchantress
Enid's Pet

F

Fairy Pink
Fancy Francis
Fan Dancer
Fantasy Amazon
Farnham Hybrid Red
Ferguson Blue
Fern Leaf
Fire Chief
First Love
Fisher's Blue No. 2
Fisher's Giant Red Lavender
Fisher's Rose Pink
Fisher's Masterpiece
Fisher's Tu-tone
Five Dots
Flint Lady
Fluffy Double
Flute
Foley's Pie Crust
Foltz Hybrid
For-get-me-not
Fortuna
Freckles
Fremont Lavender
Fried Blue Delight
Fried Delight
Fringed Double Blue
Fringette
Fringette Blue Lavender
Fringette, Dark Blue
Fringette, Light Blue Dbl.
Fringette, Mauvette Lavender
Fringette, Pure White
Fringette, Red Lavender
Fringette, Royal Blue
Frosty
Fuzzy

G

Gaiety
Garnet
Gatton Blue
Gatton Purple
Gaucha
Gay
Gay Empress
Geisha Girl
Geneva Girl
Geneva Girl Amazon
Geneva Giant Pink
Geneva Kewensis
Geneva Pink DuPont
Geneva Princess
Geneva's Daughter
Geneva Sky Blue
Georgette
Georgia Peach
Giant Blue Amazon
Giant Light Blue
Giant Pink
Giant Orchid Wonder
Giant Red Lavender
Glendora
Glorious Star
Gorgeous Spoon Leaf
Gorgeous Spoon Leaf Variegated
Gray Lady
Grotei Girl
Grotei White Girl
Guam
Gypsy Beads Amazon
Gypsy Lass Amazon
Gypsy Pink Girl Amazon
Gypsy Queen
Gypsy Rose
Gypsy White

H

Halbrook Blue
Hanging Basket

Hanover Red
 Hardee Blue
 Harmon
 Hearts Desire
 Heather Silver Belle
 High Loa Cobalt
 High Loa Lt. Blue
 Holbrook Blue
 Hollydale
 Hollywood
 Hoop Skirt
 Hortense
 Hughes Holly
 Hughes Orchid
 Hughes Purple
 Hyacinth Blue

 Ice Girl
 Icy Blue
 Ida Blue
 Ijon
 Imperial
 Improved Neptune
 Improved Norseman
 Inomorata
 Ina's Delight
 Ina's Hybrid
 Indian Maid
 Indian Squaw
 Intrigue
 Ionantha Amazon
 Ionantha Grandiflora
 Ionantha Improved
 Ionantha Purpurea
 Irene
 Ison Amazon
 Ivory Queen

 J. A. Thomas
 Jane
 Janie's Second Prize
 Janie's Unknown
 Janie's Blue
 Jessie Amazon
 Jewell
 Jimmy's Bi-Color
 Joy
 Jumbo Red
 Jungle Fern
 Jungle Princess
 Jupiter

 Kay's Quilted
 Keepsake
 Kewensis Girl
 Kewensis Supreme

 Lace
 Lacy Girl Hybrid
 Lad
 Lady Chameleon
 Lady Geneva
 Lady Esther
 Lady Inez
 Lady Marion
 Lady Mary
 Lady Sue
 Larene
 Lass
 Lavender
 Lavender Bi-Color
 Lavender and Lace
 Lavender Blue
 Lavender Delight
 Lavender Double
 Lavender DuPont
 Lavender Geneva Amazon
 Lavender Geneva Girl
 Lavender Giant
 Lavender Girl
 Lavender Lace
 Lavender Lady
 Lavender Lady Supreme
 Lavender Neptune
 Lavender Pink Princess
 Lavender Pink Princess Supreme
 Leatherneck Red
 Leslie
 Light Blue Dbl. Fringette
 Light Blue Girl
 Light Blue Fringette
 Light Blue Hybrid
 Light Blue Moire
 Light Mauve
 Light Pink Dbl. No. 2
 Light Orchid
 Lilac Lady

I

J

K

L

Lilac Lass
 Lily Pad
 Linde's Red
 Lingard
 Lithcum
 Little Pink
 Little Sport
 Lorelei
 Los Angeles
 Louise
 Lucky Lady
 Lulane
 Lula
 Luscious Red

M

Madonna
 Madonna Dbl.
 May Greer
 Marden
 Maiden's Blush
 Maid of Honor
 Mammoth Blue
 Margo
 Marie Antoinette
 Marion Cove
 Marionette
 Marmarta
 Mars Express
 Mary Lou
 Mary Parker
 Mary Parker Fantasy
 Mary Wac Sport
 Mary's Orchid
 Mary's Red
 Masquerade
 Mauve
 Mauve Fluff
 Mauve Fringette
 Mauve Lace
 Mauvette Lavender Fringette
 Mentor Boy Amazon
 Mentor Boy Supreme
 Mentor Girl
 Mentor Sport
 Merkel's Blue Brilliant
 Merkel's Brilliant
 Merkel's Giant Blue
 Merkel's Light Blue
 Merkel's Low Cluster Blue
 Merkel's Medium Blue
 Merkel's Red
 Merkel's Red-Purple
 Merkel's Red Ripple
 Merkel's Wax Blue
 Mermaid
 Mermaid Amazon
 Midnight
 Midnight Amazon
 Midnight Girl
 Midnight Spooner
 Mignonette
 Mignonne
 Mildred's Choice
 Miniature Amethyst
 Miniature Blue Boy
 Miniature No. 32
 Miniature Red head Girl
 Minnetonka
 Minuet
 Miss Kew
 Miss Junction City, Kansas
 Miss West Virginia
 Moire
 Moire Butterfly
 M-101
 Moon Empress
 Morning Star
 Moro
 Mottled White
 Mrs. Evelyn Banks
 Mrs. Ella Brown
 Mrs. Kimball
 Mrs. Stratton
 Mt. Whitney
 My Lady Carol
 My Lady Francis
 My Lady Grace
 My Lady Joan
 My Lady Lorraine
 My Lady Marion
 My Lady Sharon
 My Lady Sue
 My Orchid
 Myrtle
 Myrtle Amazon
 My Second Prize

N

Narbonne
 Nellie Girl
 Neptune Amazon
 Neptune Dwarf
 Neptune Princess
 Neptune Spooned or Improved
 Neptune Supreme
 New Blue
 New Dawn
 New Double Purple
 Nora Lee
 Norseman Amazon
 Norseman Lilac
 No. 32
 No. 32 Amazon
 No. 32 Spooned
 Noweta

O

Ohio Bride
 Ohio Buckeye
 Ohio Crocus
 Ohio Thistle
 Ohio Velvet
 Old Lavender Girl
 Old Rose
 Opal Cup
 Opal Trinket
 Orchid Ballerina
 Orchid Beauty
 Orchid Beauty Dwarf
 Orchid Beauty Amazon
 Orchid Beauty Supreme
 Orchid Bi-Color
 Orchid Big Boy
 Orchid Dawn
 Orchid Fringe
 Orchid Fringette
 Orchid Geneva
 Orchid Mottled Beauty
 Orchid Neptune Amazon
 Orchid Neptune Supreme
 Orchid Prince
 Orchid Queen
 Orchid Red
 Orchid Ruffles
 Orchid Supreme
 Orchid Wonder Amazon
 Ozark Skies

P

Pagan Red
 Pale Amethyst
 Pale Marine
 Pale Mauve Fringette
 Pale Norseman
 Pale Orchid Amazon
 Pale Orchid Double
 Palmer Violet
 Pansy Purple
 Pansy Purple Supreme
 Paynes Blue and White
 Peach Blossom
 Pet
 Petite
 Petunia
 Philadelphia Belle
 Pie Crust
 Pilgrim Girl
 Pinafore
 Pink Adorable
 Pink Amethyst
 Pink Attraction
 Pink Beauty
 Pink Beauty Amazon
 Pink Beauty Supreme
 Pink Boy
 Pink Chalice
 Pink Charm
 Pink Cheer Amazon
 Pink China
 Pink Dawn
 Pink Delight Supreme
 Pink Double No. 1
 Pink Double No. 3
 Pink Dream
 Pink Eyed Girl
 Pink Flute
 Pink Geyser
 Pink Girl Amazon
 Pink Glow
 Pink Hybrid
 Pinkie
 Pink Kewensis
 Pink Lace
 Pink Lady
 Pink Leatherneck
 Pink Luster

Pink Maiden
Pink Perfection
Pink Princess
Pink Purple
Pink Queen
Pink Radiance
Pink Shocking
Pink Sunburst
Pink Sunset
Pink Supreme
Pink Variegated
Plum
Plum Bi-Color
Plum Girl
Plum Pink
Plum Satin
Plum Vivid
Portland Rose
Primrose
Prince
Prince George
Princess
Prize Sport
Prunella
Purity No. 1 Amazon
Purity No. 2
Purity No. 2 Amazon
Purple Dancer
Purple Dogwood
Purple Emperor
Purple Flame
Purple Fluff
Purple Girl Amazon
Purple Glow
Purple Gorgeous
Purple Heart
Purple Lace
Purple Missouri Girl
Purple Mist
Purple Monarch
Purple Prince
Purple Velvet

Q

Queen Anne
Queen Charlotte
Queen Neptune

R

Radiance
Radiant
Raggedy Ann
Rainbow Geneva
Red Amazon
Red Amethyst
Red Beauty
Red Bi-Color
Red Bi-Color Girl
Red Bird
Red Dainty Maid
Red DuPont
Red Empress Dbl.
Red Fluff
Red Geneva Queen
Red Girl
Red Girl Hybrid
Red Girl Hybrid Amazon
Redhead
Redhead Amazon
Redhead Supreme
Red Ionaantha
Redland Amazon
Redland Ruffles Amazon
Red Lavender Fringette
Red Maid
Redman
Red Missouri Girl
Red Moire
Red Mosaic
Red Pet
Red Prince Hybrid
Red Saffron Boy
Red Spoon
Red Star
Red Supreme
Red Sweetheart
Red Velvet Girl
Red Wave
Regal Rose
Reish
Rhodes No. 1
Rippling Beryl
Rosa
Rosalie
Rose Beauty
Roseheart
Rose O'Day
Rosie
Rosie O'Grady

Rosita
Rose Onna Apex
Rose Onna Bleeding Heart
Rose Onna Blue Crest
Rose Onna Blue Torch
Rose Onna Calla
Rose Onna Charm
Rose Onna Dream
Rose Onna Floret
Rose Onna Jewell
Rose Onna Kurl
Rose Onna Luster
Rose Onna Midget
Rose Onna Moon
Rose Onna Ripples
Rose Onna Royal
Rose Onna Ruby
Rose Onna Spode
Rose Onna Tatters
Rose Onna Trove
Rose Onna Twilite
Rose Onna Wax
Rosal Morn
Rosal
Royale
Royal Red
Royal Red Velvet
Royal Ripples
Royal Rose
Royal Sunset
Royalty
Ruby
Ruby Jewel
Ruffled Blue Bi-Color
Ruffled Snow Prince
Ruffles Amazon
Ruffles Bouquet

S

Saffron Red Boy
Sailor Boy Improved
Sailor Boy Amazon
Sailor Boy Supreme
Sailor Girl Amazon
Sailor Girl No. 1
Sailor's Delight Amazon
Salmon Queen
Sapphire Amazon
S-22 Bi-Color
S-32 Bi-Color
Sea Foam Queen
Select Red Girl Hybrid
Semi-Dwarf Fringette
Shady Lady
Shalimar
Sharon
Shine Boy
Shocking
Shrimpie, Dwarf
Silver Lining
Silver Snow
Silver Spoon
Silver Wings
Sky Girl
Snow Cloud
Snow Prince Amazon
Snow Queen
Snow White
Southern Orchid
Spoon Amethyst
Spoon Neptune
Spoon Leaf Snow Prin
Spring Bouquet
Star Amethyst
Star Girl
Star Light
Star of Bethlehem
Star Pink
Storm King
Strauss Orchid
Sunburst
Sunburst Pink
Sunset Empress
Sunset Girl
Supreme
Surprise
Swineburne's Delight

T

Ted's Treasure
Temple Pink
Tinted Lady Amazon
The Bride
Tom Thumb
Topaz
Trilby
Trilby Plum Pink
True Blue
Tunia's Big Boy

Tunia's Prize Blue
Tunia's Red Butterfly
Tunia's Rose Butterfly
Truly Fair
Turquoise
Tu-Tone Double
Tu-Tone Light Lavender
Twilight Double Girl
Twinkle Girl

U

Uncle Bob

V

Valentine
Valentine Red
Velvet Beauty
Velvet Purple
Velvet Sky
Viking Amazon
Violet Beauty Amazon
Violet Blue
Violet Dancer
Violet Extacy
Violet Old Lace
Violet Supreme
Vivid
Vivid Plum
Von Dietrich
Von Dietrich Amazon

W

Wabash Blues
Wax Blue
Wayzata
Wedgewood
Western Sage
Weyowegia
White Cap
White Amazon
White Corsage
White Enchantress
White Fringette
White Geyser
White Girl Hybrid
White Hybrid
White King
White Lady Amazon
White Lassie
White Pixie
White Prize
White Queen
White Sailor Girl
White Sister
White Supreme
White Wonder
Winifred Merkel
Wisp o' Blue
Wisp o' Pink
Woods Nymph

Z

Zig

PART IV

Can anyone tell me who is the originator or introducer of the following?:

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Double Blue Delight

Blue Beauty

THE END

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Your Affiliated Chapter Chairman is:

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Arthur Road

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As the former chairman of the Homing Pigeon, our new Affiliated Chapter Chairman, Helen Pochurek, will need no introduction to most of you. She has done such a splendid job on the Pigeon, and we are sure that you will enjoy working with her. Please send all Affiliated Chapter Membership Reports to Mrs. Pochurek.

We also wish to take this opportunity of again thanking Grace Rowe, our former chairman, for the wonderful job that she has done, as well as all the time and effort Mrs. Rowe has spent in rendering excellent service to the African Violet Society of America.

Floyd L. Johnson

WANTED -- INFORMATION FOR A. A. V. S. TALLEY

If your local club or Affiliated Chapter has a spring or fall show this year will you, as president of your club, kindly send to me:

1. The name of the African violet winning Best in the Show Award.
2. The name of the three registered varieties winning the National Gold Ribbon.
3. The name of the three registered varieties winning the National Purple Ribbon Award.

Thanks a million! !

Miss Daisy Jones
1327 Sterick Bldg.
Memphis, Tennessee

THE END

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THE END

IMPORTANT LIBRARY NOTICE TO ALL AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

It has been a great pleasure to serve as your Magazine librarian, and I have sincerely enjoyed working with many of your presidents and program chairmen.

The first of June I am turning over the library, including all color slides, year books and magazine collections, to the very capable Mrs. Jack Yakey, P. O. Box 674, Port Arthur, Texas.

Please address all correspondence to her after the 15th of June, 1955.

Sincerely yours,
Shirley Heinsohn
Knoxville, Tennessee

A Rest Period for African Violets ?

Evan Paul Roberts, E. Lansing, Michigan
Research Editor of the African Violet Magazine

In looking through a series of German articles I found the following reference which presents an early method of culture and indicates that African violets may be given a rest period. The latter may be of some value to growers in the utilization of bench space in greenhouses of various sizes. This is questionable, but at least it may be interesting to try it on an experimental basis. In the English translation, which is given below, I have made an attempt to present the ideas as they occur in the German article.

The paragraphs which follow have been translated from "Saintpaulia ionantha" by Georg Coy, a horticulturist in Darmstadt, Germany. The article is in "Moller's Deutsche Gartner -- Zeitung," January 1898 on pages 14-15.

"Saintpaulia ionantha, a charming plant worthy of culture was introduced a few years ago and the first description in Moller's Deutsche Gartner -- Zeitung can be found in the 1893 issue on page one hundred and sixty-five. Unfortunately this beautiful member of the Gesneria family has not yet obtained deserved attention in cultivation although its beauty was often mentioned in garden magazines.

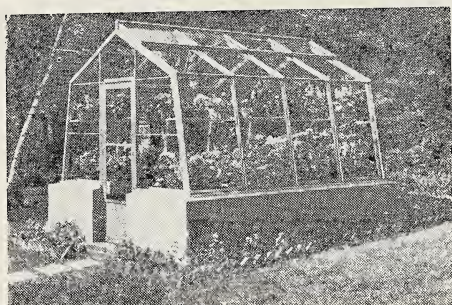
"I had frequent opportunities to cultivate the Saintpaulia as well as to observe it in some of the large gardens, and its abundance of flowers as well as its easy culture induced me to recommend it to every gardener and flower fancier. With good care the plants attain a diameter of from 20-25 centimeters. The leaves are the size of a three or five mark coin; they are succulent green in color and are easily held above each other horizontally and partly erect. The flowers appear in the beginning of September and develop in further succession until November. They are borne above the leaves in regular distribution like the violets. On a vigorous plant sometimes 40-50 flowers are found attached, three to four on a four to five centimeter stem. The color of the flowers is a vivid violet-blue, and from their center golden-yellow stamens radiate. The quality that Saintpaulia also holds up well in a room and that culture is fairly simple makes it especially valuable for the grower.

"The seed is sown in February in a sandy heath soil and is very lightly covered with soil. After two-three weeks the seedlings are transplanted. Transplanting is done once more at a later time. If the latter are sufficiently strong they are then planted in small pots and sunk in a bed in the hot-house. In June they are shifted to three or four-inch pots with a mixture of a sandy heath soil and some leaf mold. The best location is in a humid hot-house of 14° to 16° R

(63.5° to 68° Fahrenheit). The leaves must be protected as much as possible against wetting and the soil must be kept moderately moist. After flowering (the end of November) the Saintpaulia are allowed to wilt by a gradual drying of the soil. The remains are kept in a dry material under the bench of a hot-house until springtime. Then in February they are moved to a warm bed in the same way as Gloxinia tubers and are planted in pots of the appropriate size. These two-year old plants commence to bloom as early as June, but generally they are not as beautiful as those raised from seed.

"Every gardener who has seen well grown plants of Saintpaulia ionantha during blossoming time will agree with me that it is a profuse bloomer and a beautiful member of the Gesneria family and deserves to be cultivated everywhere like Gloxinia, Tydea, and others."

THE END



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African Violets And The Human Race

Laura Morris, St. Michaels, Md.

I have been thinking for quite some time how African violets seem so much like us in some ways. For instance, if we take a sun bath we don't sit in it and bake ourselves all day without protection, so why make our violets do that. It really feels nice to bathe our feet but we don't sit constantly with our feet in water. Is it any wonder the violets object? If their feet aren't allowed to dry out occasionally they develop crown rot. It's not so likely that our crown will rot, but we certainly wouldn't stand for our feet soaking all day and every day.

When you have your meals you like a variety of foods. We can exist on the same things all the time but it's not very appetizing or nutritious. So why not give our violet babies a change of diet occasionally? I think you would find they would show their appreciation in their growth and bloom. We give our children milk for sturdy growth. Violets like it, too.

We enjoy nice refreshing baths and feel like a new and different person -- give your plants a bath and you have a nice sparkling plant. When we get sick we go to the doctor for medicine, but how can our poor African violets? We take our children to the doctor to get precautions against various epidemics. Why can't we use an insecticide on the violets as a precaution instead of waiting until it is too late?

Violets are not as "finicky" as I have found we can be sometimes. A lot of people I have made acquaintance with say that they just can't raise violets. I've found their trouble is they're too afraid of them. They are so sure they can't raise them, and they do all the "don'ts" in the book.

We can't wear a shoe two or three sizes too large so give your violet a suitable "shoe." We can't wear clothes as heavy or heavier than we do, so look for a light loose soil to set them in. Then stop and think. If you were that violet sitting there how would you like to be treated?

I think if we stop and think twice sometimes about things we do for our plants before we do them, the African violets and you will have a more enjoyable time.

THE END

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WRITE FOR LIST
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800 Rambler Ave.

Runnemed, N. J.

BROKEN LEAF REPAIRED

Liza T. Damron, St. Petersburg, Florida

I am not an experienced raiser of African violets, but recently had such a happy experience, I'd like to pass it on. I accidentally broke off a rooted leaf of a very new, hard to get, variety. I really felt sick -- and started to take up the root and replant the broken leaf. I could see that tiny leaves were forming way below, so covered them back, and put Fermate on the end of the petiole that was above ground. Then I placed a bag over the little pot, (held on by a rubber band) and set it back under the lights. In a very few days the leaves pushed through, and I have a lovely little plant. The petiole is still firm and green.

THE END

OTHER VIOLET ODDITIES

Melissa Richards, Philadelphia, Penna.

I have had so many "odd" things happen in the four years that I have grown African violets, that now I am surprised at nothing.

Last winter I showed a friend who has a couple of plants how to increase her plants by rooting leaves. One of the leaves from a large, six-year-old, which I think is "Blue Boy," never has propagated, but the leaf itself keeps on growing larger and larger. Can anyone make a guess as to what is wrong with this Amazon leaf?

THE END

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Flora Cart

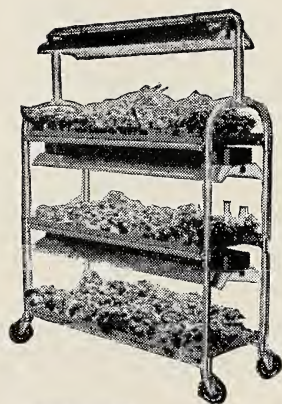
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"LET'S HYBRIDIZE"

Leonard K. Brewer, Wyandotte, Michigan

Playing nursemaid to a hundred or so seedlings, all produced from one tiny seedpod, may seem like a tedious chore, but it is certainly packed with surprises!

Unless you have a lot of room, you had better not get started in hybridization. On the other hand, there is no more fascinating method of growing Saintpaulias than by seed.

To begin with, use your choicest plants for parents. I always choose a vigorous specimen for the plant to receive the pollen. For my pollen parent, I select a flower of extra good size and color. Remove the two pollen sacs from the center of the flower and break them open. There will usually be an abundance of pollen available. With your thumb nail, or with a brush, deposit this pollen on the end of the stigma of the plant you wish to carry the seed pod. Make a record of this cross, and when it shows signs of having "taken," put a little tag around it bearing the name of the cross for future reference.

Depending on the variety, your seed pod will be quite large, or very small. Nevertheless, it is manufacturing seeds all during its life span.

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MRS. CLAUDE THORNHILL
RUSTBURG, VIRGINIA

One day you will notice the seed pod will be in a withered condition. Remove it from the plant, leaving the tag on, and set it in a sunny window for a week or two. Sometimes the pod will become thoroughly dry on the plant itself. So much the better.

For my potting mixture, I always use vermiculite or sphagnum moss, or a combination of both. Use a clear plastic refrigerator jar with a cover on it. Deposit the mixture in this and moisten it well, but not soggy, being careful not to touch it with your fingers. This will produce a mold that will be deadly to the tiny seedlings.

Scatter the seed very thinly and do not cover with the mixture. Place the cover on, and let the container sit on the outer edge of your fluorescent fixture, or in a window where direct sun will not reach it. After a variable period, ranging anywhere from a week to a month, or more, the tiny green seedlings will begin to pop up and amaze you. You will wonder just how these tiny green dots could ever develop into a super sized plant. But many of them will, with proper care.

After these tiny plants are a week old, take a wooden stick, with a notched point, and gently pick the seedlings from their original germination point and plant them in community pots of about twenty. Use your regular potting mixture for this procedure. Be sure and include a plastic label with each pot bearing the name of the cross and the date of transplanting. These records will prove invaluable and most interesting to you later on. The number of roots on these tiny plants will astound you. Be very careful with them as they are easily broken.

Set these community pots directly under your lights, or amid your other African violets on the window sill, and watch them grow.

As soon as they begin to crowd each other, usually in about a month, move them to individual pots. At this point, be very sure to take a good ball of earth with each plant, as they will have developed quite a root system.

If growing conditions are very favorable, you will soon discover buds on some of the healthier plants five months from the date of sowing the seed! It is a real thrill to any gardener or flower lover to discover the first bud and watch it as it develops and then blooms into a lovely African violet.

So, select your choicest violets and get busy!

THE END

THE B --- B --- ON N -----'S HAT

Copyright 1954 By

Mary McClure, Paradise, Calif.

The B ----- O- S ----- will soon be in the air, and shall we say a young girl's fancy turns to her F ----- L ---, or an E ----- B -----? N ----- insisted on a B --- B --- for her choice as a M -T-F --- decoration.

Now this is not the B --- B --- you have in mind. This one is the A -----, the D ----- D --- B ----- that can be seen from N ----- to the A -----.

N -----'s aunt, M --- B ---, a F ----- L ---, visited G -----'s D ----- . Together they went in search of a B --- B --- for N -----'s hat. G -----'s D ----- couldn't understand why it had to be a B --- B ---.

After a very tiresome morning of shopping they decided to stop for lunch at the E- C ----- . This is surely a B --- M --- thought M --- B --- . They had found everything from B --- O- P ----- to B ----- H ---, but no B --- B ---. If N ----- had wanted a S ----- B ----- trimmed with a H --- of M ----- B --- L ----- or H ----- B --- F ----- M- N --- shopping for N -----'s hat would have been very simple, but no it must be a B --- B ---, of all things!

They decided to call it a day and travel on homeward. N ----- would surely be disappointed. Just outside the door, who should they meet but M --- G ----- a K ----- C --- G --- with D --- E ---, and wearing a lovely suit of P ----- P ----- trimmed with B ----- 'N' B ---. She was on her way to dancing school with her L ----- S ----- and L ----- B ----- . The children were D ----- dressed in a C ----- of S ----- G --- and S ----- B ---, except L ----- S ----- wore a blouse with a P --- P --- collar, and a small R --- F ----- in her H --- H ---. They created a S -----.

Somehow the subject of conversation turned from hats to violets. M --- G ----- with great enthusiasm, described the many G ----- new violets she had seen that morning. Why not take home a violet for N -----! M --- B --- and G -----'s D ----- thanked her for the H --- T ----- . So away they dashed to visit the many growers of African violets.

First one and then another. Here they saw the new Fischer C ----- and Ulery's W ----- and the new P ----- A --- C ---. At another greenhouse they fell in love with W --- M ----- and the D ----- O ---.

At the third greenhouse they met their old friends, M --- E ----- B --- and M --- M ----- . Together they walked all around to see the many violets, each one more D ----- than the other.

G -----'s D ----- decided they should take home P --- E --- J --- when M --- B --- exclaimed "I found the B --- B ---!" They looked up in S -----, surely there couldn't be a B --- B --- here. M --- B --- had found a pot of violets labeled B --- B ---. This violet is very handsome with V ----- R --- on reverse side of leaves, and B ----- blue flowers.

They stood A --- A --- with A -----, pleased with their good F ----- . The F --- P ----- had surely waved her M --- wand over this most B ----- of violets.

The P ----- S ----- of evening were lengthening as they made their way homeward with this L ----- B --- for N ----- . Was N ----- happy? Yes indeed, she said she would much rather have a B --- B --- in the parlor than a B --- B --- on her hat.

Another educational for all lovers of African violets. This will increase your knowledge of names and descriptions. Get out your back issues of the African Violet Magazine -- also the catalogues. Only names that have been in print are used herein. Some are old, others are new and will make you dig further into violet lore. So sharpen your pencils and have fun. Fill in the blanks with violet names. Solution will be found

on next page.

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Canandaigua, N. Y.

COMPOST

(Reprinted from The Master Gardener)

An enthusiastic gardener is among the most optimistic of all men. But nothing can puncture his enthusiasm faster than having to work with a heavy, cloddy, clay soil or a sandy, droughty, loose soil. For the "physical condition" of the soil is as important as its fertility in determining your success.

Working organic matter into the soil is the cheapest way to improve the sometimes -- dubious mixture that remains in the yard after a contractor finishes grading. Organic matter loosens up heavy, hard-to-work soils, lets more rain soak through and decreases the tendency to form hard, concrete-like clods. In sandy soils, the organic matter performs an opposite but equally important function. Here it acts as a sponge to hold the moisture, allowing less of it to leach on through. Further, it causes the soil particles to hang together rather than remaining loose and easily blown about.

There are various commercial sources of organic matter such as peat moss, but the most economical source for gardeners is to "grow their own" in backyard compost heaps. October is a good time to start the compost heap, since leaves and garden crop residues such as carrot tops and corn stalks are abundant at this time. Leaves raked from the lawn should be put in the compost pile instead of burning them. Any type

of vegetable material including weeds (as long as they have not gone to seed) could go into the compost heap.

Build the pile in layers; a six inch layer of organic materials, then a one or two inch layer of soil on which is sprinkled a cupful of Vigoro. Soak this down thoroughly with the hose before adding another layer. Adding earthworms and "activators" is unnecessary. The worms will show up automatically, and the plant food is all the activator you need. The presence of the plant food will enable the bacteria to do a good job of decomposing the raw organic materials into rich granular compost. The pile should be built up in a shady spot until it is about four feet high. Keep the sides straight and make a depression in the top in order to retain all possible rain that falls on it. Plenty of moisture is necessary for the decomposition process.

Next summer the compost pile will have rotted down into a very much smaller volume than formerly. It will be ready to spread thickly on your garden and flower beds to be worked in with a spade or hoe. The compost also makes a good surface mulch for roses and flower beds. While it contains some plant food, there is not nearly enough to keep your garden well-fed. But a combination of compost for improving physical condition plus plant food to improve fertility converts your "problem soil" into a real asset.

THE BLUE BIRD ON NELLIE'S HAT

ANSWERS

Full names of violets used in this story as follows, in order as used.

Breath of Spring	Blue Bird
First Love	El Capitan
Easter Bonnet	Blue Monday
Nellie	Mrs. Boles
Blue Bird	Bird of Paradise
My-T-Fine	Bleeding Heart
Blue Bird	Blue Bird
Aristocrat	Nellie
Desirable	Spring Bonnet
Dark Beauty	Halo
Niagara	Misty Blue
Amazon	Larkspur
Nellie's	Heavenly Blue
Mrs. Boles	Forget Me Not
Florida Lady	Nellie's
Geneva's Daughter	Blue Bird
Blue Bird	Nellie
Nellie's	Mae Greer
Geneva's Daughter	Kansas City Girl

Dark Eyes	Mrs. Evelyn Banks
Pansy Purple	Mrs. Mackey
Buttons 'N' Bows	Delightful
Little Sister	Geneva's Daughter
Little Brother	Pink Eyed Jenny
Darling	Mrs. Boles
Creation	Blue Bird
Sailor Girl	Surprise
Sailor Boy	Blue Bird
Little Sister	Mrs. Boles
Peter Pan	Blue Bird
Red Feather	Valentine Red
High Hat	Brilliant
Sensation	All Aglow
Mae Greer	Admiration
Gorgeous	Fortune
Nellie	Fairy Princess
Mrs. Boles	Magic
Geneva's Daughter	Beautiful
Happy Thought	Purple Shadows
Creation	Little Beauty
Wintergreen	Nellie
Peaches and Cream	Nellie
White Madonna	Blue Bird
Double One	Blue Bird

THE END



EDNA P. JONES

3560 French Rd.

Beaumont, Texas

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

HOMING PIGEON

Dear Pigeons:

Spring is over, and it's time once again to start thinking about the care of our violets during the summer months.

We are home from the Convention, still thrilled by the new introductions and anxious to have some for our very own.

I have received a number of letters with a dollar enclosed for membership in the Pigeons. Please do not send money; there is no fee for membership. There is one requirement, however: membership in the National Society. So when you receive your notice, renew your membership; otherwise you are not eligible for membership in these groups. ("By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.") Some have sent their membership dues for the Society to me. These have been sent to the Treasurer. Time would be saved by sending dues direct to the Treasurer.

To members outside the U. S. A. wishing to become members of the International groups, please write Catherine B. Shepherd, 5245 Fifth Street, North, Arlington 3, Virginia.

By now you have read about Joan Copeland's plan to compile a directory of Commercial growers; we will be anxious to hear from you.

In the eight months that I have had the Pigeons, more than two hundred and twenty-five members have been placed in groups, and many more are waiting for assignment. New groups have been organized, such as Organic, Miniature, Directors, and International Pigeons. We have requests for new Directors and Seedling Pigeons; the International is filled, but those wishing membership in any of the other groups please send in your letters of introduction.

Your cooperation has been wonderful, and a special "Thank You" to the Directors for keeping them flying.

Good growing,
Edna

THE END

BUYER'S GUIDE REPORT

The Buyer's Guide Committee wishes to thank each of you who sent in your choice twenty-five. We hope to be able to give you the "Best 100" in the next report. The list is also in the process of being revised. We say "Thank You" again for each list sent in. We hope the "Best 100" meets with your approval.

SAINTPAULIAS EPISCIAS DAYLILIES
African Violets, labeled, different. Young plants 12/\$4.50. Leaves 10/\$1.25, 30/\$3.25 and 30/\$6.50. List 2¢. Folder, "easy-do's", descriptions, 10¢. A. V. and Giant Hybrid Gloxinia seeds, 50¢ Pkgs. (150 seeds) \$1 Pkgs. (400). Episcias, 4 different \$2.30. Daylilies for naturalizing: Fine hybrid seedlings, 12/\$1.75; hand pollinated seed 50/\$1.

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PLANT PESTS AND DISEASES ON AFRICAN VIOLETS

Edith Lundberg, LaSalle, Ill.

Our favorite house plant, the African violet, is a thing of beauty and a joy forever -- but it seems that we must constantly be on the lookout to guard it against its enemies.

The most commonly known enemies are those known as plant pests, or insects. Regarding these enemies, in my home research I shall divide them into the following categories, relating my experiences with each:

Mealy Bugs

The most commonly known enemy, they are very pesky indeed. I am happy to be able to say that I have never had any experience with them in my home, for my plants have never been infested. However, several of my friends have been bothered with them a great deal. I personally believe that mealy bugs are carried into the house on other plants, such as coleus, brought in from the garden in the fall. Also, some plants from the florists are very susceptible and may be infested with them. They seem to thrive where there is high humidity and poor light.

It may be alright to pick them off with a toothpick and a bit of cotton dipped in alcohol. However, a better way is to keep them in separate, dry saucers, rather than on wet sand or limestone chips. Spray them thoroughly with an

Optox solution or Blackleaf 40 several times a week until they have all disappeared.

Thrips

Fortunately, I have never been subjected to this pest, either. Thrips may also be carried in with such flowers as gladioli, etc., used as cut flowers. An overall spray, such as Optox, will help to get rid of them.

Scale Insects

These are the small, brownish-grey insects that look like shiny dark spots on the foliage. They never seem to move; but actually they are living insects that suck the juices of the plant, and thereby destroy its vitality. They produce young insects, which move about until they find an uninhabited spot on the leaf and permanently attach themselves. In time they look unsightly. I have a friend who lost a lovely Blue Girl that was displayed on the windowsill. She told me that she suddenly realized that an ivy plant directly above Blue Girl was infested with scale insects; and no doubt some of these dropped onto her violet, where they had another host plant on which to multiply. It seems that the best preventative would be to isolate plants like ivies or cacti which are subject to scale insects. Any plant so infested should be sprayed with a double-strength solution, for the hard shell on these insects makes them hard to kill.



Mrs. Lundberg

Mites

Known also as cyclamen mites, because these plants frequently are hosts for the insects, these violet enemies are very tiny and cannot be seen with the naked eye. They are a serious menace to the African violet. We are indebted to the African Violet Society and its research department for much information on these pests. Several fine articles have been printed in the Magazine.

About five years ago I had around twenty-four large, blooming plants at Christmas time. My husband brought home a duPont Blue from the florist, thinking it was a lighter shade of blue than mine. They were the same, but I was delighted with it -- until I found out how much trouble it brought with it. In about a week I noticed the center of my lovely duPont Lavender Pink was hard and shiny, and the new buds that should be opening were hard and distorted with short stems. A lovely plant of Ruffles and one of Tinari's Blue Eyes looked the same. The culprit was the plant from the florist, which was in the same condition.

I had just read Harriet Lawton's account of cyclamen mite, and I decided this was my trouble. I quickly disposed of plants and soil and scrubbed the pots in very hot water. Then I sprayed the remaining plants with Optox solution. Fortunately, I have had no more trouble.

Always be careful of plants bought at a florist shop. The plant may have been healthy in itself, but possibly it was placed near another variety of plant, such as cyclamen, which in turn infested the violet. It is best to isolate a new plant for a while and observe it before placing it with your violets.

Springtails

Again, I have never been so cursed, but I have certainly seen them on African violets. They are the small, whitish insects that skip and scurry around the top of the soil when the plant is watered. Although many people consider them harmless, the plants I saw did not survive. They certainly might do some harm to the plants and are best eliminated. It is my belief that they hatched out of so-called "well-rotted" manure. I believe that baking the soil and using only dehydrated commercial manure might prevent them.

It is hard to control springtails after they are in the soil, but a teaspoon of Clorox in a pint of warm water, poured over the top of the soil, might help to get rid of them. I do know that neither Optox nor Blackleaf 40 are effective in destroying them.

Plant Lice

These insects are usually carried in by other plants, either from the outside garden or from a gift plant from the florist. Chrysanthemums are very susceptible to plant lice, also called aphids. A good spraying with Optox or Blackleaf 40 will eliminate them.

White Fly

Like plant lice, these are mostly carried in with greenhouse plants, especially fuchsias, which are very susceptible to them. Keep the plants isolated to prevent spreading, and spray with Optox.

Nematodes

I am sure that many violet growers would be horrified if told that they have nematodes. What may seem to be "simple crown rot" may be a serious infestation of nematodes. We are also very much indebted to the African Violet Society for its research and reports on nematodes.

Several years ago I suggested to my husband that I would like a good, four-inch hand lens or reading glass to examine my violets more thoroughly. When Santa Claus brought me the hand lens, I really had my eyes opened. I had lost a few plants previously with what seemed to be just a simple case of crown rot or root rot -- in spite of careful watering. One day I picked up a plant whose lower leaves were limp, in spite of the soil being moist. I suspected crown rot and examined the plant with my hand lens. I was horrified to see tiny, worm-like creatures crawling in and out of tunnels they had made in the stem of the plant near the soil level. The stem had rotted half-way through. The leaves were unable to get moisture for the roots, and so were limp. The plant was disposed of, along with the soil, without much ceremony. I knew from reading the articles on nematodes that there was no cure, and disposing of the plant prevented the spread to other plants. Since then I have watched several plants that did not thrive and found two that had swollen or enlarged "galls" on their stems, also described in the magazine article. Again the use of hand lens showed the tiny worms working in and out of the stem of the plant, although the stem had not rotted through noticeably. These, of course, were also disposed of.

Now I bake all my soil at a temperature of 350 degrees for one hour after the soil has been moistened with a spraying of hot water. When it comes out of the oven it is still steaming and wet. I have not noticed any nematodes or cases of crown rot since. I used to bake the soil at 200 degrees, but I now believe that it was not hot enough to kill the nematode larvae.

Almost anything can happen to our violets, and some things that are really tragic seem amusing. In the Question Box of the December, 1954, Magazine, Lois Minehan reports that she discovered a grub worm, which had eaten into the stem of her plant. She couldn't figure out how it got there. My suggestion is that she had a June bug, or May beetle, visit her plants one day and lay the egg which hatched the grub worm. This is one of those unexpected things that cannot be prevented.

I had an amusing experience just before Christmas, 1954. I looked my plants over one morning and saw a brown speck on the leaf of a plant. Thinking it was a bit of peat moss, I tried

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to flip it off the leaf with my finger tip; was I amazed to see it hop into the air. I looked at another plant and saw a tiny grasshopper sitting on a leaf. I carefully carried the plant to the kitchen, knocked off the grasshopper and flushed it down the drain. Then I looked at another plant, saw another grasshopper, and went through the same procedure. The next morning I found another grasshopper chewing on a nice, fat seed pod. It followed its brothers down the drain, and I didn't see any more grasshoppers after that. But the seed pod died from the chewing, and several leaves had holes in them.

Where did they come from? I suddenly remembered finding a large grasshopper in my living room last summer. It must have visited my violets and laid the eggs that hatched the grasshoppers. Never a dull moment in the violet business! Now I wouldn't be surprised to see a bee or a butterfly in the middle of winter.

Having covered the bothersome insects, let us proceed to plant diseases.

Mildew

Few people actually know that powdery mildew is a living fungi or organism which attacks the host plant. These fungi really have root-like sucking organisms and obtain food from the plant. Mildew is usually prevalent in cloudy, very humid weather, and usually appears on shade-grown plants. African violets which are affected, therefore, are probably grown in subdued light under humid conditions.

The cure lies in a drier atmosphere with plenty of light. A light dusting of sulphur dust will help your plant.

Plant Rust, or Scale

I have noticed that some of our readers are writing the Question Box for help in dealing with brown scale. What they probably have is not scale insects, but a fungus disease called plant rust. It is a brown, scaly condition that usually attacks the petioles, and sometimes the underside of leaves. It can be scraped off with the finger nail, but the leaves are left scarred from the scale. I saw my first "case" of this three years ago on plants I had just purchased. I knew it was a fungus disease, but I didn't know what to do about it. I kept removing leaves to prevent its spread but eventually lost all three plants.

About four weeks ago I noticed my duPont Lavender Pink had scale, or rust, on the underside of the petioles of three or four leaves. Looking over my spray supplies for a treatment, I knew an insect spray wouldn't help. I found a fungicide called "Hammond's Grape and Rose Dust," which is a sulphur and copper sulphate mixture with a small percent of inert material tinted green. This coloring is to prevent an obnoxious look on sprayed plants. I took the plant to the kitchen and watered it lightly to prevent the soil from spilling out. Then I tipped over the pot, and, holding the plant with the fingers of my left hand, I dusted the underside of the petioles and leaves with the Grape and Rose

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Dust. Then I set the plant back on its stand. The upper surface of the leaves were not dusted, since they were not affected. The plant still has the dust on the leaves after four weeks, although it is unnoticeable, and the fungus infection has stopped. I have not noticed it on any of my other plants.

Fungus Rot

We are all familiar with the fungus rot that accompanies crown rot, or the fungus rot in stems of plants that are damaged by nematodes; but there is a more serious form of fungus rot that defies prevention. Crown rot or root rot can be prevented by careful watering of plants. Nematodes damage can be prevented by baking the soil and destroying the nematodes. All fungi must have moisture to grow, as well as damp air and darkness.

In the midwest we have had two years of very moist fall weather. In October, 1953, I noticed that I was losing some very healthy looking plants, which had developed fungus rot suddenly and mysteriously. One day the plants looked healthy. The next day they were in a state of complete collapse, with a brown, watery look all over them. In most cases the soil was dry, so it was not a case of over-watering. I talked to a friend and found that she, too, was losing a lot of plants the same way, although her soil was completely dry. We had been having days and days of dark, rainy weather, and I decided that the atmospheric condition, rather than the cultural conditions, were to blame. When the weather cleared there was no more trouble of this kind.

October, 1954, was the same. The month which is traditionally beautiful and sunny had only a few days of sunshine. Most of the month was rainy and dark. Again I was losing plants. Some were precious seedlings, with no leaves down for propagation. It was indeed disheartening. It seemed as if I were watching a child die of a mysterious disease while standing helplessly by. November and December were the same -- dark and wet.

In January I looked at a lovely plant that had been beautiful in the morning; by evening the petioles of the lower leaves were brown and oozy halfway up the leaf. The stem of the plant was watery and dark brown, although the leaves were still green. I decided that I had to do something. I looked up fungus diseases in my plant encyclopedia and diagnosed the case as one of the dreaded stem-rotting diseases called Phytophthora, which is a swift, sure killer.

I quickly and carefully removed all the lower leaves. The crown had not yet become affected, but the plant stem was bleeding like a tapped sugar maple tree. I sprinkled some of the Grape and Rose Dust (sulphur) on the stem of the plant and allowed some of it to settle on the soil. I did not put any on the leaves. Then I set the plant back on the stand.

A miracle happened. The next morning the stem of the plant had dried, the crown was still green, and there was hope for the plant. The stem was damaged too much to work properly, but I kept it for three weeks before deciding to root the crown in peat moss and vermiculite. This was not possible in other plants.

The root system was intact, so I am sure it was stem-rot. The crown is rooting nicely; and since it was a seedling, I am very happy about it.

Now when I see a plant that doesn't look well, I hasten to get the Grape and Rose Dust and sprinkle a little on the soil and the stem of the plant. It shows results immediately. I hope my discovery will help someone else. Incidentally, history tells us that sulphur dust was used as a fungicide in Biblical days. It is a shame that we use so little of it now, for it can perform miracles.

THE END

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| A-1. Singles. Many colors; leaf types | \$1.00 |
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The History Of The Council Of The African Violet Society Of St. Louis And St. Louis County

On January 16, 1949, a hardy group of pioneer women organized a society to be known as the Webster Groves African Violet Society. Their object was to pursue the study of, and stimulate interest in, the culture of the comparatively rare African violet. Mrs. C. F. Schroeder was their first president.

Their enthusiasm knew no bounds; and by the end of the year, December 9, 1949, another group was formed, to be known as the Viking African Violet Club. Mrs. W. F. Anderson was their first president.

On March 29, 1950, the two chapters met at the home of Mrs. Roberts to draw up a proposed set of by-laws to govern the combined chapters. That was the beginning of what is now known as our Council.

Interest in the plant and its propagation was growing rapidly, and the third group to be formed was The Normandy African Violet Club. Their organization date was May 4, 1951, with Mrs. Reichman, president.

In the spring of 1952, these three groups banded together to stage an African violet show for their own edification and the general public. It was held in the Knights of Columbus building in Webster Groves on the fifth and sixth of April.

The beautiful display of violets stimulated so much interest, it was decided at that time to have a registration of people who might be interested in joining an African violet club.

The next group to be formed was the Ionantha African Violet Club. It was organized on Feb-

ruary 18, 1952, with Mrs. Paul Bunting their first president.

Greater St. Louis African Violet Club was organized in March, 1952. Mrs. E. Sullivan was their first president.

Then followed the next two clubs, which were organized on the same date, October 9, 1952: The Rainbow African Violet Club, with Mrs. Dill, president, and the Amethyst African Violet Club, with Mrs. E. N. DelPorte their first president.

In the next few days, October 15, 1952, the Holly African Violet Club was organized, with Mrs. J. J. Gersbacher their first president.

On February 3, 1953, two representatives and presidents from each group met at the home of Mrs. A. Zimmerman for the purpose of integrating the groups together into a Council of all the Violet Clubs in St. Louis and St. Louis County. Mrs. A. Zimmerman was president, Mrs. Rogge, secretary, and Mrs. Nalley, treasurer.

It was decided there were to be two Council meetings a year.

On the eighteenth and nineteenth of April, 1953, these eight clubs in the Council staged their second annual violet show in Webster Groves in the Knights of Columbus building. Again there was a booth for registration of people who might be interested in joining or forming more African violet clubs.

In September, 1953, the County Belles African Violet Society was organized; their first president was Mrs. R. A. Penrod.

INTRODUCING

COLONIAL PINK

We are proud to introduce this first in a series of new pink African Violets, the results of extensive hybridizing over a period of several years. COLONIAL PINK is a deep pink single, with clusters of from six to ten large blooms per stem, held well above the dark green velvety foliage. In response to many requests, we will now ship to retail as well as wholesale customers. We have prepared a retail list of our introductions, also a selection of other varieties, both old and new. When requesting list, please specify whether retail or wholesale.

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Next, the Twilight African Violet Club was formed, with Mrs. J. Broombaugh their first president.

On January 22, 1954, the eleventh group in the Council was organized, known as the Evening Sunset African Violet Society, with Miss B. Jeanette Riefeling their first president.

At the meeting of the Council, held at Stix-Baer & Fuller, on the eighth of February, 1954, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. Grace Wayman, president; Mrs. Champion, treasurer; Mrs. Penrod, secretary; Mrs. Konrad, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Del Porte, vice-president and historian.

In April of 1954, we had the rare privilege of being hostess to the African Violet Society of America. The National Convention met at the Chase Hotel on April 22, 23, and 24.

The very beautiful Amateur Show was staged by the eleven groups in the Council.

At the meeting of the Council, October 18, 1954, Mrs. Thelma Usinger was elected president for 1955.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Hood DelPorte
Historian, 1954

PART TWO

The history of the Council of African Violet Clubs of St. Louis and St. Louis County for the year of 1955.

On December 6, 1954, a Council meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Thelma Usinger, the 1955 Council president. At this meeting the following officers were elected to serve with Mrs. Usinger: for vice-president and historian, Mrs. Adele Tretter (Greater St. Louis); treasurer, Mrs. James Casey (Normandy); corresponding secretary, Mrs. Neva Anderson (Viking); recording secretary, Mrs. Tillie Miller (Rainbow).

On January 31, 1955, the president and two council representatives of each club were called to a meeting at the home of Mrs. Thelma Usinger. The third annual show of the Council was planned at this meeting.

By the time you read this our annual show will be history, as it will be April 2, and 3, 1955. The theme of the show is "VIOLET PARADISE."

Respectfully submitted,
Adele Tretter
Historian, 1955

THE END

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Not at all. But there is a danger that by the time you discover these minute, insidious pests the leaves may curl, small white cotton masses appear, plants shrivel and blooms stop. And "nobody loves a shrinking violet"—*not even a shrinking African Violet!* But the symptoms and hideous results often are easier to detect than the causes themselves.

For instance, mealy bugs are but a small fraction of an inch long. And the devastating cyclamen mite and broad mite are *invisible* to the naked eye! They frequent the junction between the stalk and leaf—and feed on the underside of the leaf. Fortunately, they can be easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray—the special "ogen" insecticide that is so popular with both professional and amateur African Violet growers alike.

As it is an ovacide, Marvel Spray penetrates the waxy shells of these persistent enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send \$1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today, Rose Manufacturing Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose GROW-ers"). Building, Beacon, New York.

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Omaha 2, Nebraska

SAINTPAULIAS AT PINETREE

H. Stanley Melbourne, F. R. H. S., Dorset England

Many years ago as a horticultural student I made my first acquaintance with Saint-paulias. I well remember how they grew in the stove-houses for decorative purposes, receiving scant attention and taking their syringing along with all the bigger and more important plants.

Apparently they thrived quite happily in their stove-house obscurity. So it was with great surprise that I came across these plants in the spring of 1952 at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, London. On display was the prized and exquisite collection of Mrs. Joy Hutson of Luton. Fascinated by their dainty beauty and fired by Mrs. Hutson's own enthusiasm, I decided to try rooting leaf cuttings myself. I procured from her leaves of various varieties and on returning home inserted them in shallow seed-boxes containing vermiculite, after first of all dipping each leaf stalk in hormone.

Then I placed the boxes in a corner of my moderately heated greenhouse and waited. But I soon found this waiting process too tedious and bought plants in full bloom; from these I started propagating more and more leaf cuttings of every variety I possessed.

My greenhouse nursery is comparatively small, (thirty feet long by fifteen feet wide) and I soon realized that I should require more room for my ever increasing number of plantlets. At last I devised a way of dividing the greenhouse down its entire length: Shading it overhead and down the center with yards and yards of white tiffany. This arrangement, not entirely unattractive to look at, gives the African violets the necessary shade from too bright sunlight and yet the tiffany, being so light and transparent, does not unduly darken the greenhouse.

While waiting for my leaf cuttings to propagate I tried dividing up some of the plants I had bought. But this was not very successful.

However, within a surprisingly short time my own plantlets appeared and I started potting them up into small thumb pots using John Innes compost number one with the addition of a little peat and I potted them very lightly.

Some of the plantlets I put into fibre pots and I have been amazed to see how swiftly they grew in comparison with those in the clay pots. I can thoroughly recommend the cardboard or fibre pots. Not only are they time-savers in that they retain moisture and so require less watering but I have also found that the rim of these fibre pots do not damage the leaf stalks, thereby reducing the danger of efflorescence disease. I change the fibre pots every three or four months and if they are considered too unsightly they can easily be concealed in a decorative container.

With the coming of Autumn I installed fluorescent lighting and gave the African violets five or six extra hours of light. This has proved most advantageous for both the older and younger plants. The former bloomed over Christmas time and the latter are already showing promise of early blooming.

The daily syringing I find is essential to the well being of these plants, for it not only keeps down pests but cleans away dust and decayed flower petals. Naturally I am not advising amateurs to try spraying indoors but there is nothing to prevent them from standing their plants in a bath or sink and giving them a weekly syringe, provided the plants are afterwards shaded from direct sun. From my own experience I can assure them that it pays.

I am curious to know the record number of plants that may be propagated from the same leaf cutting. One of my leaves an Edith Cossington (a three year old seedling of Mrs. Hutson's) produced four plantlets in its first rooting, seven on its second insertion, and is at present busy propagating for the third time!

In addition to leaf cuttings I am raising plants from seed. They have already been pricked out and should be in bloom by early summer.

Growing these lovely plants has a fascination of its own, and one is amply recompensed for all the extra care and time given to them. The pitfalls are not so many; the real bad one being, I consider, the cyclamen mite. Yet that too can be controlled in its early stages, although I would recommend amateurs to destroy at once badly affected plants. However, they may do as I have done, take with impunity the oldest leaves as cuttings.

THE END

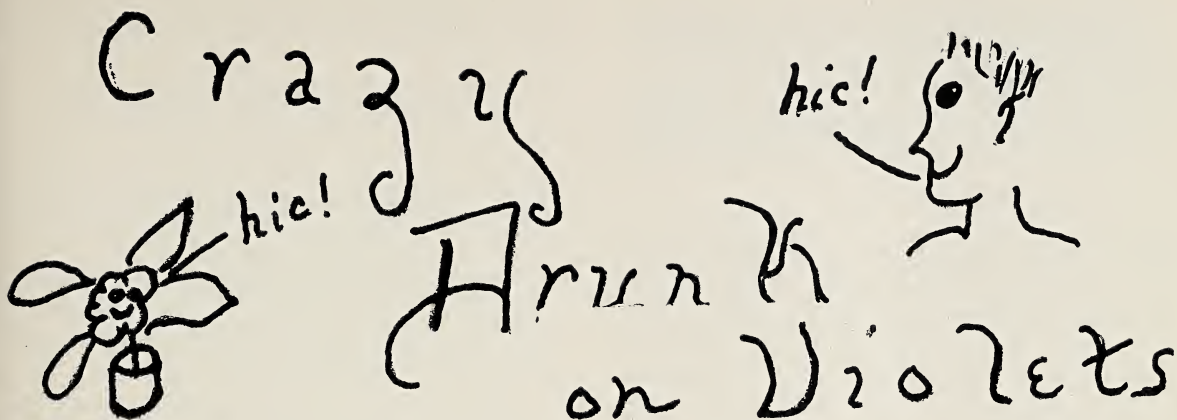
FREE ADVANCE COPY . . . FALL CATALOG

Forty-eight illustrated pages of unusual and hard-to-find supplies, equipment and accessories for African Violets, Gloxinias, Geraniums, Azaleas, all greenhouse and indoor plants. Everything from potting mixes and plant foods to large aluminum plant stands and fluorescent lighted plant carts. Largest selection any catalog specializing in supplies for indoor plants and greenhouse. Send now for your free copy.

THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER

Box 819

Oxford, Maryland



Howard Preston

Courtesy of the Cleveland News

What this world needs is somebody to start an organization called African Violets Anonymous. The trend has changed, brother, and alcohol and bagels no longer are the chief threats to civilization. The number one target is the African violet.

I have written before about the African violet and how it takes hold of a woman, but I was writing about kid stuff. I should have waited. On behalf of Husbands of the World, unincorporated, I plead for somebody to stop this terrible habit before we are ruined. As a destroyer of the home, wrecker of family morale and chief reason for the downfall of women, the African violet is more potent than gin and more penetrating than canasta.

You husbands who know nothing of this pernicious habit of collecting African violets -- don't be smug. It can happen to you, too.

I remember when I first touched on this horticultural type of intemperance. I even chuckled to see the lady of the house industriously potting little plants and putting them around the house. I thought it was funny.

So it is funny, I suppose, the first time somebody gets a cup too much and has trouble locating the furniture. But after a while it isn't humorous. It's deadly serious.

It starts out innocently enough. The girls get together and decide to go out and look for good bargains in African violets. "Just another deep purple is all I want," one says. Another says she is looking for a pink or a white violet and the whole business is chummy and inexpensive.

But then the insidious drug takes hold. Once they could take an African violet plant or leave it alone. Then they reach a point where they can't pass a flower shop or a roadside stand without stopping for a quick look and a small purchase.

The next step is deadly. They start growing their own. I do not complain because I have to drink out of an old powder horn because all the

glassware in the house contains African violets. Nor do I raise an issue because I haven't been able to take a bath since February because the tub now is a proving ground for miscellaneous roots, leaves and shoots.

But in the same manner of the homebrew maker, the gals blend their own. Come home early of an afternoon and you find the house a laboratory of special plant food, various earth substances and insecticides. The gals look up guiltily and murmur something about having to go home and they stagger off to open a can of beans in time for supper.

And those mysterious telephone calls. "Meet me at 10:30 and we will have time to run over to so-and-so's house. She has a new variety."

The habit spreads swiftly. Some woman who never raised a violet in her life gets initiated and next thing you know she is leading the pack to some previously unknown greenhouse in the manner of a lush who discovers a pub where the olives are smaller in the martinis. Some dealers even give away plants on the house after the third buying round as a bartender serves free drinks to encourage trade.

The poor things can't help themselves. A woman who has just blanketed the kitchen with new plants will listen helplessly while a friend describes a new type of violet. "Well," she says, "I guess one more won't hurt me. Anyway, I am not driving."

If African Violets Anonymous isn't started very soon it will be too late and the typical American home, as we know it, will have vanished forever.

THE END

Editors note: Our thanks to Mrs. Pochurek for sending in Mr. Preston's clever story. Illustrations by Shirley Heinsohn.

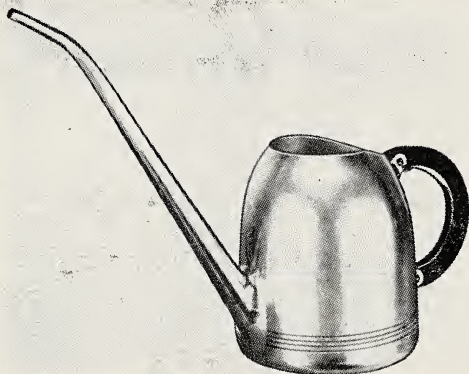
MARMORATA -- TWENTY-SIX BLOOMS TO A SPIKE

Mrs. Frank A. Doepel, Memphis, Tenn.

Woolworth's supplied the best blooming plant I have ever owned. About fourteen months ago, I purchased the plant, Marmorata, there for thirty-nine cents. It had some blooms on it last spring and survived the hot summer. Last fall I put it in a double window with a north exposure, and from then on it has grown and bloomed beautifully. The blooms measured a little more than one and three-fourths inches in diameter, with flower spikes of twenty-six blooms to a spike. I had intended to enter it in the spring show, and then we moved to a different location, and I put the violet in a window with a southern exposure -- and, of course, its growth was retarded. Hence, no show for my plant. Now I have it back in a north window, and it is covered with blooms.

Several of my plants took honors in the Spring Show -- all first year bloomers, with the exception of Red King, which was eight months old. But my favorite plant is the one from the five-and-dime.

THE END



**HIGH-LUSTER
ALUMINUM WATERER**

In all the world it's hard to find the perfect watering can. This one comes from Stratford-on-Avon in England. It is believed to be exactly right in every detail. Holds 3 pints with open spill-proof top for easy filling. Long spout with nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ " opening gives just the right flow in hard-to-reach places. Weighs less than a pound, so it won't tire you. Bright polished aluminum with contrasting easy-to-hold black wood handle is strikingly beautiful. Looks every bit like silver. Handle on side is not in way when filling. It's well-balanced for ease of watering, wonderfully practical and good to look at. Special offer to readers this magazine, \$4.95 post-paid. Mail your order.

The House Plant Corner

Box 818

Oxford, Maryland

MY METHOD OF LEAF ROOTING

Mrs. G. Prince, Sioux Falls, S. D.

I have often found that the simplest method of doing things is the best, and I apply this theory to rooting African violet leaves.

Using two violet leaves, I split the stems up the middle first, then the two split stems are fastened together securely with scotch tape, leaving a small portion of the stems free at the bottom to place in the ground.

Then I simply plant the leaves in African violet potting soil. I cover the entire stem and pack the soil tightly around the bottom of the leaves. A glass is then placed over the entire planting, making sure it is air-tight.

Water is kept in a dish under the pot. I use small cans with holes punched in the bottoms for starting plants, since they take up less room and a number of them can be watered from one large dish.

I remove the glass when I see tiny leaves starting. Direct sunlight on the young plants is avoided at first -- I have found a north window to be the best. From this very simple beginning, lovely plants have resulted.

THE END

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PINK JOY . . . deep pink single.
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A Letter From Gent's

JOHN R. GENT & SON

Saintpaulia Specialists

WEBSTER, NEW YORK

April 22, 1954

Dear Saintpaulian:

One day, several years ago, I found Dad out in the greenhouse transferring pollen from a blossom of Double Blue Neptune to the blossom of a huge rambling African violet called S. grotei (better known as the climbing specie). I immediately inquired:

"What qualities could that monstrosity possibly contribute to an outstanding new hybrid?" And Dad replied,

"You just wait and see."

Well, as you hybridizers know, it was a long "wait". But as the tiny offspring of this unusual cross developed and came into bloom, it was not difficult to see the attributes bestowed upon these seedlings by their comparatively homely parent, Grotei. The most important characteristics were rapid growth and extraordinary hybrid vigor.

From this group of seedlings, after selecting and re-selecting, we finally decided one was worth saving and propagating. This plant eventually received the name of BLUE CLUSTER.

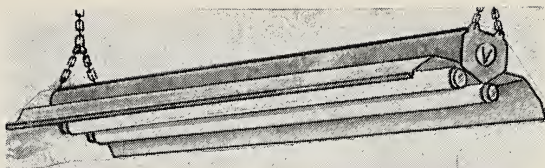
Dad and I have always recognized the value of growing the Saintpaulia as a single crowned specimen. We have devoted special effort to instructing amateurs in the necessary steps required to produce specimen plants in the home. However, shortly after Grotei's introduction to the commercial market, we discovered this particular specie lent itself particularly well to growing as a multiple crown plant.

BLUE CLUSTER, having inherited its parent's extreme pliability and tendency to climb, also lends itself to growing as a multiple crown plant. It is most effective when displayed at eye level, on a shelf, stand, or hanging type planter. BLUE CLUSTER'S extra large, bright blue blossom, lovely foliage, and graceful habit of growth will delight Saintpaulians for years to come.

We believe that BLUE CLUSTER has many possibilities as a parent for further hybridizing, and that its introduction is the beginning of a new trend in Saintpaulias.

With sincere devotion to the Queen of America's house plants, we remain

Yours truly,
The Gents
THE END



40 WATT — \$12.50 F. O. B. DETROIT

2 Light, 4 ft. long fixture with bulbs, switch, chain, 5 ft. cord and plug.

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1-A mixture, 300 seeds \$1.00
11-E mixture, crosses of many varieties
having girl type foliage 300 seeds \$2.00
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singles, produces approximately 50 per cent
doubles or semi-doubles 150 seeds \$2.00
8-B our best mixture, 300 seeds \$3.00

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MAGIC MIX — A prepared mix for starting gloxinia, begonia, episcia, violet and other plant cuttings.

FINE MEDIUM FOR STARTING ANY SEED

Can be used alone or combined with potting soil for growing blooming size plants.

Contains no soil or chemical fertilizers, contains natural soil conditioners and trace elements. Try it on your problem plants.

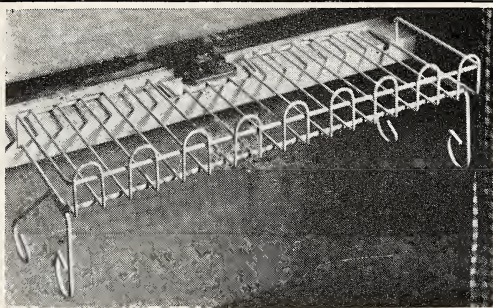
2 quarts \$1.00 -- 5 quarts or over 40¢ per quart ppd.

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LIFETIME PLASTIC LABELS, 4½", \$1.25 per 100.

DAIRY ORGANIC COMPOST — 5 lb. bag, \$1.50 ppd., 50 lbs. \$2.95 or 100 lbs. \$5.50 by freight.

D-X AERO SPRAY, \$1.85 ppd. Best for African Violets. One bomb plus 15 labels, \$2.00 ppd.

METAL SIGNS that glow at night. Wall sign, AFRICAN VIOLETS, \$1.45 ppd. Send dime for sign catalog showing over 30 styles.

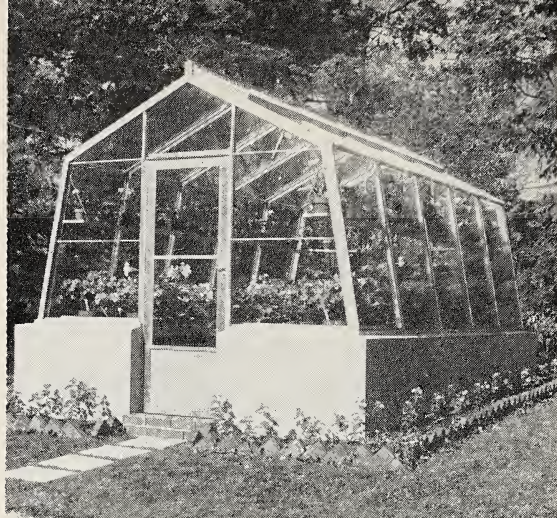
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A Prefabricated Aluminum Lean-to

For the first time, modern prefabricated design makes an aluminum lean-to greenhouse easy to set up and attach to the house. The task of cutting and fitting precisely by the square, level, and plumb, which for years has frightened all but the best of craftsmen, is now so simplified that even a lay mechanic with a yen to do-it-yourself can set up the greenhouse. It's a beauty, too -- extra light and airy. There are large continuous ventilators along the roof, and a top hinged window for one end, and a door for the other. Everything is aluminum with stainless steel or aluminum hinges, bolts, and screws. Glass is really wide -- thirty inches. It is set in rubber and sealed weather-tight once and for all with aluminum barcaps outside. After all, this is the only way to make a greenhouse that is really maintenance-free -- eliminate putty glazing, painting, and do away with all parts that might be affected by moisture.

There are untold possibilities for arrangement to suit any site. The height of the lean-to greenhouse may be varied from a minimum of eight feet to any maximum, simply by adjusting the height of the walls below the glass. This means that low eaves, windows, and door openings in the building which might normally obstruct the connection, can be almost entirely disregarded. Not only this, but by simply increasing the size of the roof deck, the overall width of the greenhouse may be regulated to gain extra growing space. The new lean-to greenhouse can also be nestled into a corner set-back with the house forming one end, as well as with two glass ends, as pictured. Lengths can be in any multiple of two and one-half feet.

The new house is surprisingly roomy -- it takes two, 2 foot 10 inch benches, yet has a liberal size walk. There is also space for two lines of shelves under the eave and more along the back walls.

THE END

HELP!

We have been able to locate several of our lost members advertised for in the March issue, page 69. Please, won't you re-read this and see if you know any of these members. If so, let us hear from you, for your information may help us to locate the missing ones.

We are having our regular office inventory of our files. Please let us know any correction in your address.

We have on file two orders for back issues of the magazine from Miss Campbell and Miss Williams. We do not have their complete addresses.

Several handbooks have been returned with addresses unknown. Efforts are being made to locate these members by registered mail.

Please, if you have a change of address, let us hear from you as promptly as possible, and be sure to sign your name to your request.

If you know of anyone not receiving his membership card and magazine within thirty days from the date of application, please have them contact us.

Many thanks for your kind help.

African Violet Society of America
P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

PORCH GROWN VIOLETS

Martha Seefeldt, Trenton, Illinois

Several weeks ago, I decided to "make room" in the house for the family, so I hauled some thirty or more African violets out to the enclosed screened porch. They sit there happily, these gloriously hot days when the temperature soars to one hundred and two degrees, and continue to bloom profusely.

There is no shade on the porch, which is on the east side of the house, until the afternoon. At noon I have been pouring a bucket of well water on the walk in front of the porch and on the ground around it, and since it seems to have some cooling effect on me, I hope it has for my violets, too.

I water every other day, pouring the water in the saucers under the plants, and once a week I water with Hyponex, using the same method. The violets on the porch are as lovely as those more protected ones in the house. Even the sudden change of temperature at night, when the mercury drops a good bit, does not seem to disturb them at all. There are often dew drops on the leaves of the plants in the morning. However, I praise the high humidity, which, I believe, is one of the main reasons my plants that I have treated like step-children have prospered so well. They seem as happy on the porch as the rest of the family is with the additional space in the house.

THE END

African Violets

African Violet culture has won such enduring popularity because these lovely plants—with their exquisite blooms and wide variety of beautiful leaf shapes and textures—are so easy to grow that beginners have as many flowers as advanced collectors.



PLANTS LIKE THIS \$1.00 each

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PITTSBURGH SHOW

The African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh will hold a fall show and plant sale in the seventh floor auditorium of the Joseph Horne Department Store, September 26 and 27, 1955. Many varieties of violets will be on sale.

We hope this will be one of the outstanding events of the year, and we extend an invitation to all who can attend.

Plan now to have a pleasant time in our beautiful smoke free, cleaned up city, with its many new buildings and interested African violet collectors and growers.

THE END

ANOTHER HINT FOR MORE BLOOMS

Shirley Heinsohn, Knoxville, Tenn.

Good foliage, sturdy plants, but few blooms -- until I put my pots within other larger pots, then packed spagnum moss between the two and around the tops of the plants. Now my plants are blooming profusely, for the moss holds the extra moisture around the plants.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

NORENE M. KOLB

WRITE FOR LIST

RETAIL

WHOLESALE

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VIOLETS TAKE OVER

Courtesy Kansas City Star

What began as a curiosity in a single African violet plant has grown into a full scale project for Mrs. Louise Pavlic, who now tends more than two thousand plants growing at her home.

Four years ago Mrs. Pavlic bought a plant that she intended only as a side decoration at her home, 4032 Parallel Avenue in Wyandotte County. She learned in a short time that many of her friends were interested in the violets, and thus began an exchange of varieties.

"Then I discovered they had names," Mrs. Pavlic said, "and they became more fascinating day by day."

Needing trays and stands to hold her plants, Mrs. Pavlic prevailed on her husband, John, a sheet metal worker, to make the articles. But the faster he made them the faster the plants seemed to multiply.

A small room next to the living room became a miniature greenhouse, with a hospital vaporizer keeping the humidity at the proper stage.

Plants were displayed in the kitchen and in bedrooms, and finally the dining room furniture was moved into the garage to make room for the carts and stands of violets.

Finally a breezeway was converted into a special room for some of the one hundred and seventy-five varieties of violets.

As Mrs. Pavlic learned more about the flowers she began experimenting with them, entering them in shows and going home with ribbons. Some of these winning plants now have lost much of their original beauty, and some of Mrs. Pavlic's fellow collectors have asked her why she doesn't get rid of them.

"I can't part with them," she says. "They're just like an old horse that won a lot of races."

THE END

TOURING NEW HAMPSHIRE?
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AFRICAN VIOLETS

SUPPLIES

ROOTED LEAVES

Quality plants at reasonable prices

NO SHIPPING

June through November only



Beautiful scarlet blossoms growing out of dark purple cups, surrounded by dark green, glossy foliage, make this trailing plant a treasure for your window garden.

Trichosporum Pulchrum

Shirley M. Heinsohn, Knoxville, Tennessee

One of the easiest plants to grow in your window garden is the *Trichosporum Pulchrum*. It is trailing in habit and makes a beautiful vine with dark green, glossy foliage. *Trichosporum* may be grown in ordinary African violet potting soil. One of the nicest plants I have ever seen covers almost one entire picture window and was continuously in bud and flower for several months last year. It is attractive without flowers; and potted with one of the metallic-leaved, red-foliaged episcias, it makes a most decorative piece for your plant collection.

The encyclopedia says that it is epiphytic in habit, which means that it gets a considerable part of its food value from the air, like orchids. The plant encyclopedia also recommends that it be grown in *Osmunda*, *Sphagnum* moss and broken charcoal. However, my plant, and that of my neighbor's who has been so very successful, seems very happy growing like an African violet.

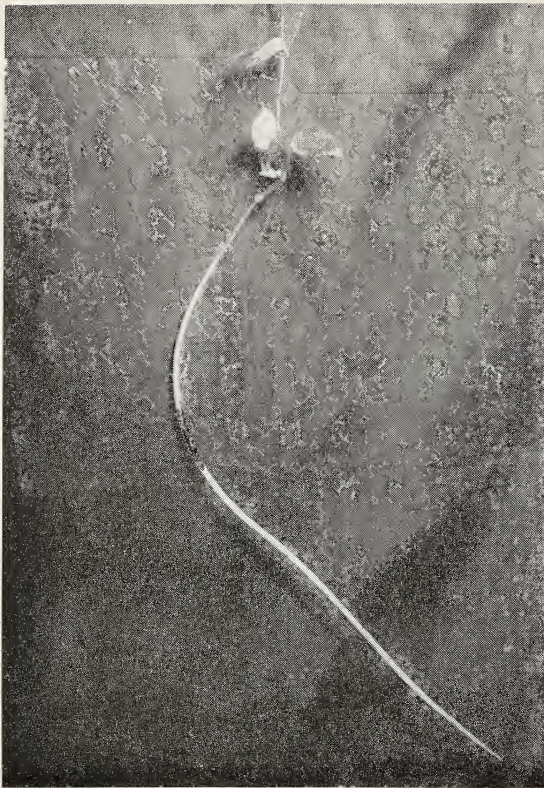
Pronunciation: Try-Kos'-Po-Rum, with the accent on Kos

Also Called Red Bugle Vine and *Aeschynanthus*

Two bean-like seed pods, match-stick thin and about eight inches long, were produced last year. When the pod was ripe and dry, it popped open; the tiny, fuzz-covered seed spilled over the glass window shelf. It is not known how they pollinated, and it is with great interest I await the results of their planting.

Cuttings are very easy to grow. It roots readily in water; when the tiny roots form it should be transplanted into a growing medium of peat moss and vermiculite. When the cutting is well-established and shows signs of growth, transplant into your favorite potting soil mixture.

Any method of culture that you have followed in successfully growing *Saintpaulias* will be successful with this plant.



This interesting, bean-like seed pod, match-stick thin and about eight inches long, was produced last year. When the pod was ripe and dry, it popped open, scattering hundreds of fuzz-covered seed over the window sill.

Water with warm water from either the top or bottom of the pot, as you do with your violets. About the same care that one gives an African violet is all that the Trichosporum needs. It is best not to over-water and has not been harmed when the soil has dried out a little.

It is recommended that the plant have a good, strong light, plenty of humidity, and at regular

intervals a little commercial fertilizer, the same strength as used for Saintpaulias.

The beautiful scarlet blossoms, growing out of dark purple cups on the tips of the branches, is a stunning sight. You will feel well-rewarded in having included the Trichosporum in your window garden.

THE END

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No Plants Shipped	

Policing International Plant Traffic

Ralph W. Sherman

Plant Quarantine Specialist, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, USDA.

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If you have a relative in far-off Burma, don't try sending him Mexican Jumping Beans!

It isn't clear whether the cozy Bean moth larvae jitterbugging in these Arrow plant seed pods are too active for the slow-rhythmed Burmese or whether the natives lose too heavily in the games of chance that feature these acrobatic oddities, but "the importation of 'Mexican Jumping Beans' into Burma is absolutely prohibited," according to plant quarantine orders issued by that country.

Now the Burmese aren't the only ones with unusual plant-traffic restrictions. You need to know the peculiar quirks embodied in the import rules of all foreign nations before you ship them any plant material.

You can't just stop by the post office and get a quick answer on these rules from the man at the parcel post window. Nor is your county agricultural agent likely to have had much experience with these foreign regulations.

Authority

So, if you want to ship plants out of the country, the safest rule is to sit down and write a postcard to the United States Department of Agriculture.

Your inquiry will be routed to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, to be passed right along to that Bureau's Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines. This is the same division that enforces United States import restrictions on the entry of plants and plant products. In this case, though, one of the division's specialists on plant certification for exports takes over. With a zest for new adventure, he reaches for his dog-eared notebook -- the one the Bureau calls an "export certification manual."

This manual is the key to policing international plant traffic. It contains translations of every published plant quarantine order affecting the United States, issued by any country in the world.

As soon as a foreign country distributes a plant quarantine order that applies to our exports, a copy of this order is routed to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine through diplomatic channels. Here the order is translated. A summary is prepared of restrictions affecting us. This summary is then submitted to plant pest control officials of the issuing country for verification. Finally it is duplicated and distributed to our Federal and State plant pest officials and interested exporters.

Prevention

Most of the plant quarantine regulations are intended to prevent entry of disease-carrying plants or those which might spread some insect "pest" which would damage plants in the quarantining country. From his manual, the specialist quickly learns which of our common American pests are most feared by other nations.

When a foreign country focuses its remote-control, biological microscope on this country, which of our established plant pests loom large in their estimation? Our omnipresent Colorado Potato beetle, better known as the "Potato bug," seems to rank as the most unwelcomed insect visitor that could reach them from our shores.

Source

Foreign countries have a real reason for allowing entry of only beetle-free potatoes, for this pest did gain entry into Europe from this country. Just a few adult beetles of each sex in some sacks of American-grown potatoes were probably responsible for this invasion. An infestation discovered near Bordeaux, France, in 1922, has since spread rather widely on the continent. The beetle has also made numerous cross-channel forays to harass British potato growers. The British government has combatted these marauders with costly eradication measures, ranging from spraying of all potato crops within five miles of the infestation, to hand-picking of beetles and injection of carbon disulphide fumigant into the soil of infested fields.

Invaders

Also prominent among our established insect pests and plant diseases that other countries quarantine against are the Mexican Bean beetle, Japanese beetle, Cotton boll weevil, European Corn borer, Grape phylloxera, San Jose scale, Chestnut blight, Potato wart and Dutch Elm disease. From their common names you know that many of these pests first gained entry into this country from foreign sources. Import restrictions of a good many foreign countries have been tightened since we got these pests. Now the progeny of most of these invaders can't be legally shipped back to their ancestral home.

Each country has its quota of native pests that are always difficult to control. In addition, much disastrous hitchhiking of injurious insects and plant diseases between remote countries has already occurred. International plant policing, then, is also necessary to keep out other foreign pests that may easily and quickly gain entry in plant material arriving by plane, ship or rail.

Plant certification for export, an essential of such policing, is performed in the United States under the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944, which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the inspection and certification of domestic plants and products offered for export. This service safeguards foreign markets for American plant exporters by satisfying the sanitary import requirements of the receiving country.

Channels

Large quantities of export certification material pass in a continuous stream through 30-odd Bureau field stations. Some foreign countries will accept either Federal or State export certification. State nursery inspectors examine about half of the material going to these countries. Other countries require both Federal and State certification for products like barreled apples and seed potatoes.

Whatever the type of certification, a specialist makes a careful examination of the material. Representative samples of bulk shipments are inspected. Hand lenses and even a microscope are used when needed. This certificate shows any form of fumigation applied to destroy pests detected by the specialist, the fumigant used, dosage and exposure.

Comparative study of foreign plant quarantine summaries turns up some unique restrictions and practices.

Variety

Colorful language that seems strange to our legalistic regulatory orders appears in those of several foreign countries. A literal translation of an Iranian plant quarantine order cites their intention to prevent the introduction of "dreadful insects" and "dreadful pests and diseases." When you speak about "those horrid roaches running over the kitchen floor," you have some solid backing for your choice of adjectives.

Again, the U.S.S.R., brusquely exercising its often-used veto powers, bluntly states, "the government seed control and agricultural plant quarantine service of the Ministry of Agriculture, U.S.S.R., in each separate [case] will:

"Embargo. Return or destroy.

"Decide its status of freedom from pests regardless of statement in a foreign certificate."

"Limit the localities and means of consumption of imported materials and produce within the U.S.S.R., as well as order the compliance with quarantine measures during the process of such consumption."

Simple

You might expect to encounter a Chinese puzzle if you wished to ship plants to the Celestial Kingdom. Actually the Chinese regulations are the simplest. There are no specific prohibitions on our plant exports. All plant imports as well as exports need only be submitted to a local government testing bureau. None are passed to destination if pests are present.

Quite to the contrary, the Portuguese colony of Mozambique, on the southeastern coast of Africa, a country slightly larger than Texas, has an elaborate set of plant quarantine import regulations. These include a long list of plant products that may be imported only under special conditions designated by the Colony's Central Agricultural Office.

Also, proof that no one government has a monopoly on complicated "gobbledegook" is found in a three-sentence Argentinean order appearing in the manual. This states that "During the quarantine period, the observations and prophylactic measures which the technical offices deem necessary to guarantee their good sanitary condition will be supervised. If, as a result of the investigation to which all the plants or parts of plants are subjected during the period that will be established in each case, the existence of pests is not determined, the shipment will be delivered to the interested person; in the contrary case, the incineration of those found to be attacked will be effected. The expense occasioned will be charged to the account of the interested persons."

Translated into layman's English this might read, "The plants will be grown for awhile under supervision. Those found pest-free will be sent to the owner. Plants with pests will be burned. All expenses must be paid by the owner."

Oddities

Curious items relating to noninjurious insects and products made from plants crop up in the export certification manual.

Veterinarians, for example, get an unexpected assignment in French import regulations. These say that bees "may not enter France unless accompanied by a certificate of origin and freedom from disease issued by a veterinarian or some other qualified official authorized by the government."

In another case a plant-quarantine order of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture states "The importation of artificial (synthetic) wine, and materials for its manufacture is prohibited by law***. If the Customs entertains doubt, the Ministry of Agriculture must be immediately requested to send an expert." With a similar requirement, our plant quarantine organization would have to include a wine connoisseur -- to be handy in case Customs entertained a doubt.

Permanent

Details of the export certification manual also show that eradication of an insect in this country does not necessarily mean the lifting of embargos imposed because of it. The U.S.S.R., for instance, still prohibits the importation of "citrus planting and grafting material originating in Louisiana because of citrus canker." An intensive eradication campaign from 1914 to 1927 wiped out this disease in the Gulf Region. It has not been found anywhere in Continental United States since 1942.

As another example, Peru, as a temporary measure against the introduction of the Mediterranean fruitfly, has prohibited since 1929 the importation of fresh fruit and vegetables from this country, except the States of California, Oregon and Washington. This embargo Florida fruits and vegetables. What Peru hasn't recognized is that the successful 1929-30 eradication campaign in Florida wiped out our only Mediterranean fruitfly invasion. The pest has not reappeared anywhere in the continental United States.

Special

A ban against one of the diplomatic immunities that most nations accord foreign emissaries is found in still another Peruvian decree. This prohibits the importation of seeds, plants, cuttings and shrubs by means of pouches of the diplomatic service. This offers an intriguing policing problem to Peruvian plant quarantine officials, for pouches of foreign embassies and missions, under accepted diplomatic immunity, may not be examined. Most countries ignore this question entirely in their plant import rules. Instead, they rely upon foreign emissaries, as a return courtesy, voluntarily to submit their plant imports for routine inspection.

While these bizarre items may be culled from foreign export certification requirements, actually most of their regulations are biologically sound and quite clear in intent. Even so, if you are anxious for speedy transport of your perishable plants, you might regard the best of them as irksome restrictions.

But suppose, even after seeing how difficult your job of sending a plant to a foreign country could be, you still want to try. Just what happens between the time your plant leaves your nursery or greenhouse and the time it reaches -- say Argentina?

Tortuous

A glance at the Argentine plant import restrictions shows that in order to ship a plant to that country it must be inspected by one of the technical experts of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in this country. This insect and plant disease expert closely examines it to determine its freedom from pests. If it is given a clean bill-of-health, he issues a shipping certificate attesting to the good sanitary condition of the product at the time of shipment. A visa of this certificate by the Argentine consul at the port of embarkation completes the transaction here.

Upon arrival at an authorized port of entry in Argentina, the importer or his agent presents an application for inspection to the Port Plant Inspection Service. This agency then proceeds to inspect the shipment. If this inspection shows the plant to be "in good sanitary condition" it may proceed to destination.

Complicated, you say? Maybe! But it's sound plant protection procedure to guard a nation's treasure of plants.

THE END



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Viol-Ogen Rooting Medium (vigorous starting), 8-oz 70¢. Viol-Ogen Potting Mixture (scientifically balanced--dry packed), 3-lb 75¢.

At garden, seed, hardware, drug stores. Or direct, postpaid. Booklet "How to Raise African Violets" free. Rose Mfg. Co., 6914-65 Ogen Bldg., Beacon, N. Y.

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African Violet Mystery Contest

HOW GREEN IS YOUR THUMB?

Starting with partially rooted leaves of one certain undisclosed variety, the first twenty-seven persons to bring us a young plant with the right kind of blossom will win \$100 in prizes.

The first five winners will be asked to please write down the secret of their success so as to help others less skillful. We will give these instructions the widest possible publicity through newspapers and our nation-wide catalogue. Authors will be given full credit.

CONTEST CONDITIONS

The leaves, all of one variety, were started in Vermiculite on February 1, 1955. The variety we selected was one that can be positively identified only from its blossom. It will be almost impossible to fool us.

Every contestant applying at the greenhouse after March 1st will be given one leaf **FREE**. Extra leaves will be 25¢ each as long as the supply lasts.

The winners will be determined by the order they bring their plant to this greenhouse. At least one blossom of the right type must still be attached to the plant when we see it.

The contest closes right after our annual Flower Show in November, 1955.

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Fertosan Organic Compost Accelerator

Clair W. Stille, Lexington, Ky.

A reprint -- courtesy Fertosan

FERTOSAN is an organic accelerator, an entirely new type, that reduces vegetable matter to a rich humus laden manure in five to six weeks. The heap does not require turning, the bacteria do the work and the heap does not heat up to impair the value of the beneficial bacteria desired in the humus. There is no chemical action to corrode the cellulose and thus impair the nutritive value of the compost.

FERTOSAN is sold in twenty-three countries around the world and is now being introduced into the United States. We learned about FERTOSAN from the famous Rothamsted Experiment Station in Harpenden, England.

I raise hundreds of violets, under home conditions from seed, leaf and division and have been unusually successful. You may be interested in my formula -- this is the first time it has been made public.

I used compost made by Fertosan which resembles old cow manure. Incidentally, here in Lexington the compost is almost a public institution -- all my violet friends want a bucket of it for their violets. I use one half compost and one half garden loam. I fortify the combination with a half pint of good fertilizer to a bushel of the mixture. And you have the finest combination money can buy. Then I sprinkle the combination with a quart of water in which I have placed a half teaspoon of the FERTOSAN solution. The water should be warm (incubation) temperature. The beneficial bacteria will develop very rapidly, every fifteen to thirty minutes, and this inoculation is the basis of a real fertile, natural soil.

The purpose of the bacteria is to prepare the plant food for the violets which is a normal procedure in the natural environment. When soil is sterilized the good as well as the undesirable bacteria are destroyed and fertile soil has one hundred and thirty million bacteria to a gram (one twenty-eighth of an ounce). When you inoculate the mixture with FERTOSAN Accelerator you have a cultivated culture combination of bacteria that can overcome the bad bacteria just as a healthy person can overcome, to a degree, disease bearing bacteria.

One very significant angle to FERTOSAN is the fact that all the nutrient value remains to be used by the plant. In natural manure the animal takes out the nutrients of the vegetable matter and we get the residue.

The soil combination with the use of compost meets the technical requirements for aerated open soil texture, holds moisture and slowly releases the plant food as needed.

THE END

LIFE WITH THE AFRICAN VIOLET

Howard Preston, Cleveland News

I don't know how to classify this in the life of a woman but I would say a female spends a portion of her career in what I call the "African violet" stage.

Roughly, this comes after the Sir Lancelot -- Gregory Peck period. It also follows the interim where the best things in life are Guy Mitchell, fur coats and matching rugs and drapes. It precedes that stretch of time during which a wife is inclined to poison her husband for the insurance money.

If you haven't already gone through it, I hereby describe it for you although it is easy to recognize without a map.

All of a sudden a woman's consuming passion turns to a small plant which is known as the African violet and which grows indoors. It is nurtured on blood, sweat and tears. If the average grower of the African violet (the amateur grower) labored as long and lovingly over oak seedlings, we'd get our forests back by next week.

Symptoms of African violet fever are readily discerned. Almost overnight the house blossoms. It all starts from one small plant on a window sill in the dining-room. It spreads viciously. Before you know it there are African violets in the living-room on small tables.

Then there are African violets in the kitchen. Slowly they make their way upstairs.

The competition is fierce. I suppose Smith Brothers keep cough drop formulae from Luden's and vice versa but certainly not in the manner of two African violet growers trying to hoodwink each other. To listen to an African violet grower tell all, you'd think there was nothing to it.

"I just turned it to the North light," one grower will say, sweetly. The truth, of course, is she fed her plant nitro drops and penicilin.

"Well," the other grower will say, "I seem to have better luck with the East light. And I sprinkle a little garlic water around the roots." The truth is she grows 'em in the dark and feeds chopped liver to the plant.

It appears there is no certain solution to the growing problem of African violets. You can grow them in sand, soil, water, pebbles, cement or beer foam. You can grow them in pots, pans, seashells, old peanut butter containers or loose carpeting.

But they do take a hold on a woman. It is quite easy to overhear a dietary conversation and imagine the ingredients are for small children when they're for African violets.

Being of the opposite, or weaker, sex, I cannot understand why this flower is such a red-hot item. To me, an African violet is a sort of weak-kneed plant with haphazard purple, pink or white blossoms. But if your wife takes up raising African violets, do not hinder her. An African violet costs much less than a convertible or a new dining room set.

THE END

AFRICAN VIOLETS

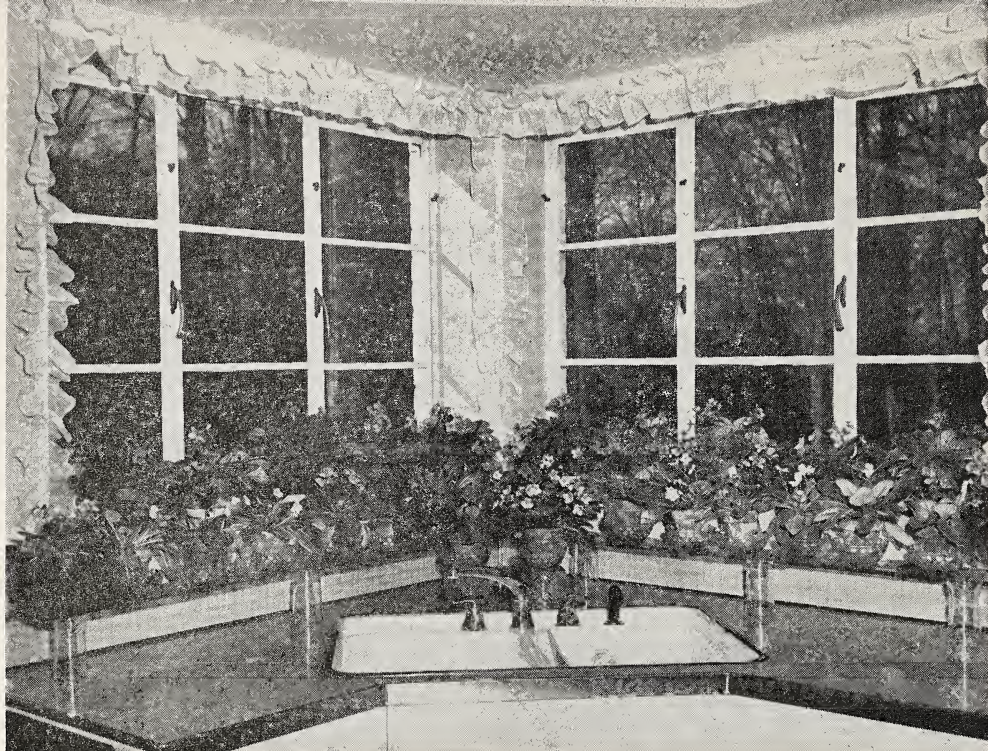
Write for list of our new violets shown at the Pittsburgh Convention. A few of the choice varieties shown were Shadrach, Fancy Pants and our double "Pink Bride" and many others.

Some are available now and others will be this fall in limited supply.

MADISON GARDENS

MADISON

OHIO



My kitchen is my pride and joy. Twenty-five plants find the humid atmosphere and good northwest window exactly to their liking. Photograph courtesy of Mr. Art Lapp, Cincinnati Post.

My Kitchen Window Garden

Myrtle Radtke, Cincinnati, Ohio

I have my African violets where I can enjoy them most -- in my kitchen. After all, that's where most of us housewives spend a great deal of our time anyway, so why not have them near at hand to brighten even the drabest of chores.

Some say that our house was planned for my violets -- well the windows were! The bay window in the dining room is a perfect stage for some of my plants, and is an east exposure. The bottom of this bay is finished with a wood pattern of formica which will not mar from dampness or spills of water. This bay holds forty 4 inch pots, fifteen of these are on the glass shelves which line the window. In our dinette we have another bay which faces west. In this bay there are twenty-six 4 inch pots.

The kitchen however is my pride and joy. My sink fits into the corner and behind the sink are two very large (54 inch) windows that meet at right angles. The white marble sills and a row of glass shelves just below the sills accommodate twenty-five plants which find the humid atmosphere of the kitchen and the good light of the northwest window exactly to their liking.

In the basement there are seven large tables under fluorescent lights. My plants do beautifully down there too.

I have little trouble with proper humidity in the house, as we have a mechanical humidifier which is in constant use during the months when our furnace is on. My plants in the basement are sprayed every day or so, (when I can spare the time from my treasurer's job) with a plastic garden hose which has a fine spray attachment. I have a hot and cold water mixer at the top so these plants will not be chilled.

Last summer, our first in our new home, I had a little trouble with burning on my plants in the dining room bay. I experimented with bamboo shades and muslin hangings and finally settled on a tobacco cloth curtain which was hung on the outside of the window during the morning when the sun shines there. This year I am using a large sheet of cellophane fastened inside the window and up to this writing in early June have found it very satisfactory. This eliminates the bother of having to hang the curtain and take it down each day. Also my plants get good light.

Our lovely old beech trees in back of the house provide the shade for the plants in our west windows.

What a rewarding hobby is the growing of African violets!

THE END

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd St.
Perry, Iowa

Deadline dates for Club News contributions: For September issue, June 1st; for December, September 1st; for March, December 1st; for June, March 1st.

INDEPENDENCE KANSAS

The Independence African Violet Club of Independence, Kansas, met with Mrs. W. E. Johnson for their annual Christmas luncheon at 1 o'clock on December 13, 1954. Mrs. Cyril Johnson was chairman of the luncheon arrangements.

The rooms were pretty with unusual Christmas decorations. The tables were centered with burning candles, and each plate was marked with a Christmas corsage.

A short business meeting was held at the conclusion of the luncheon.

Officers of the club, which were erroneously included with the Decorah, Iowa, news in the December Magazine are:

President,	Mrs. Ray Miller
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Minnie Clark
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Ike Graves

EAST BAY CALIFORNIA

On October 4, 1954, a very successful House Tour, combining a plant sale and a tea, was given by the African Violet Society of the East Bay (California) for their members and friends. Three of the officers' homes were opened, each one boasting of its own special features as well as the violets.

The H. S. Lanes' home in Oakland, California, furnished with lovely antiques, had plants in old china, glass and other rare containers arranged on desks, cabinets and tables. A wrought iron stand, aglow with color, was placed in the living room window. The dining room was given over to the sale of plants, both large and small.

In the home of the club president, Mrs. B. D. Dexter, Berkeley, California, plants were grouped or placed singly on low coffee tables, lamp tables and mantel shelf. A revolving stand containing fourteen plants was centered by the fireplace. A fine collection of Wedgewood added color and interest. Guests were given the pleasure of visit-



Pictured at the Portland Oregon Show . . .

Left to right: Miss Arnetta Bjornson, past president, and Mrs. Florence Myers, president of the Portland Chapter; Mrs. Marguerite Strandrud, president of the Mt. Hood Chapter.

ing the greenhouse; and here, also, plants were sold.

At the home of Mrs. R. A. Hansen, Berkeley, purple and green streamers over the house number waved gaily outside. Inside guests were asked to sign the guest book before being directed through the rooms to the dining room where tea was served. As in the other homes, both large and small plants were used. Here small ones joined leaves and circled the glow of lamps.

Others placed in tea cups were grouped on tables. Larger plants were used on three white stands. The stairway, too, boasted of its own violets. Throughout the home, blue ribbons won by the members were placed near the individual plants.

The members all had a part in this House Tour, loaning and giving plants, baking cookies, buying tickets and giving of their time and enthusiasm. Each felt a pride in their Society and in the three members who so graciously opened their lovely homes.

Officers for 1955 are:

President,	Mrs. Faye Hori
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. A. Hansen
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Beatrice Youngblood
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Ruth Warr
Treasurer,	Mrs. Edith Diegle

ERIE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of Erie County, Pennsylvania, met recently at the home of Mrs. Albert Winter, Main Road, N. E., with Mrs. Emily Lyman and Mrs. Clayton Boyd as co-hostesses.

The following officers were installed for the year:

President,	Mrs. Herald Swift, Sr.
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. LeRay Hess
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. E. Wynkoop
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Albert Winter
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. F. A. Schrimper

Other committees were named to serve for the coming year. This group has been together for the past five years and maintains a full membership of thirty women. Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month, with two to four hostesses appointed for the social hour.

The programs have included guest speakers, showing of colored slides of traveling members, auto tours of various greenhouses and private growers into New York State and Ohio, and displays in the local fairs, which attracted much attention.

SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

At the Spring Garden Festival of the Utah Associated Garden Clubs, March 14, 15 and 16, 1955, was a beautiful display of African violets. This affair was held at the Newhouse Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. The display was arranged by the African Violet Society of Utah, Chapter 1.

The arrangement consisted of a huge clock, four feet in diameter, with twelve large, blooming violets set in holes around the edge. The clock was covered with white satin. Inside the row of plants were numbers and hands of black felt. More plants were on display at the foot of the clock, which was standing at a forty-five degree angle on a large table. Curved above the clock was an orchid foil sign. In six-inch, black, raised letters were the words, "Any Time is Violet Time."

The Salt Lake Society was also instrumental in arousing enough interest to include an African violet show in conjunction with this Garden Festival.

The committee for the arrangement included Leah Paul, chairman; Bernice Fisher, Helen Roberts, Martha Snow, Virginia Zobrist and Gloria Whittaker.

ST LOUIS COUNTY MISSOURI

The County Belles African Violet Club of Southwest St. Louis County, Missouri, met at the home of Mrs. H. J. Schmidt on December 17, 1954, for a luncheon and Christmas party.

The Council President, Mrs. Thelma Usinger, installed the following officers for 1955:

President,	Mrs. H. J. Schmidt
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. E. Reis
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. C. H. Wakefield
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. R. A. Penrod
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. J. Benecke

The new program books were distributed to the members. On February 24th the club will hold their monthly meeting at the Bethesda-Dilworth Home. Each member will take a sandwich; dessert and coffee will be furnished. Each member will bring a violet for a shut-in.

ST. LOUIS COUNCIL MISSOURI

The Viking African Violet Club, St. Louis Council, Chapter 2, celebrated its wooden anniversary December 8, 1954, with a party and business meeting at the home of Mrs. F. D. Wayman, the retiring president.

Christmas gifts for secret pals were exchanged.

The following officers were installed for the year 1955:

President,	Mrs. A. R. Stutko
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. A. P. Bofinger
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. A. P. Ashner
Corres. Secy.,	Miss D. Baudissin
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wm. Demko

The projects for the current year are a donation to the Boyce Edens Memorial Fund and the contribution of blooming plants to the Normandy African Violet Club, Chapter 3, for their hospital violet cart.

The program is based on a study of "All About African Violets," by Montague Free, and "How to Grow African Violets," by Carolyn Rector. Reviews of specific topics are given each month by the members.

At the February meeting, held in the home of Mrs. A. P. Ashner, members donated plants to the hospital cart and exchanged desired leaves, which were distributed from a beautifully decorated Valentine basket. Floral arrangements, using African violets as the focal point, were judged, and winning ribbons were awarded.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ILLINOIS

The Suburban Saintpaulia Society of Arlington Heights, Illinois, was organized in September, 1954, at the home of Mrs. Edward Moss.

The following officers were installed on December 1, 1954, at the home of Mrs. Harold Klopp, social chairman, in an inspiring and

beautiful candle-light ceremony by Mrs. G. P. McGraw of Downers Grove, Illinois, president of the African Violet Council of Northern Illinois:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| President, | Mrs. Edward Moss |
| Vice-Pres., | Mrs. Elmer Busse |
| Secretary, | Mrs. George H. Vogeler |
| Treasurer, | Mrs. Laddie F. Poduska |

Membership, which is limited to twenty, now numbers twelve, all of whom belong to the National Society. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at the homes of the members.

DALLAS TEXAS

New officers for the First African Violet Society of Dallas, Texas, were installed by Mrs. Kenneth Foree, Jr., at a show and tea on December, 2, 1954, in the home of Mrs. J. W. Hofmann, retiring president of the club.

The officers installed for the coming year are:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| President, | Mrs. E. G. Boyd |
| Vice-Pres's., | Mrs. J. R. Millikan |
| | Mrs. Tom Brooks |
| Rec. Secy., | Miss M. Bird Bell |
| Corres. Secy., | Mrs. Edward E. Bone |
| Treasurer, | Mrs. J. W. Hofmann |

The show was judged by Mrs. Hofmann; its purpose was to teach members how to groom and show their plants, and how to prepare them for entry in the Dallas Garden Center Flower Show at Fair Park, March 12 through 19, 1955.

Arrangements featuring African violets and specimen plants were exhibited throughout the house. Blue ribbon winners were Mmes. Edward Bone, E. G. Boyd, Kenneth Foree, John McMurray, Herbert McCoy, Will Jones, and Clyde Williams.

Guests for the tea and for luncheon earlier at the Spring Valley Athletic Club were Mmes. S. B. Hull, Michael Reaves, Harold West, J. M. Garrett, and Nancy Richey Ranson, garden editor of the Dallas Morning News.

ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

The Holly Club of the African Violet Society of St. Louis and St. Louis County, met at the Golden Horn for a chicken dinner and Christmas party, at which time the following officers for the year 1955, were installed:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| President, | Mrs. Minerva Scheid |
| Vice-Pres., | Mrs. Edith Chamberlain |
| Rec. Secy., | Mrs. Joe Gersbacher |
| Corres. Secy., | Mrs. Loretta Mayer |
| Treasurer, | Mrs. Minnie Hamper |



BLISS IDAHO

Pictured are Barbara Schell, Dixie Ann Farnsworth, La Vena Lott, Joan Goodwin, and Freda Brown, members of the senior class of the Idaho State School for the Deaf and Blind, which is located in Gooding, Idaho. They became honorary members of the Bliss Saintpaulia Society of Bliss, Idaho, at their November meeting. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Louise Huyser. The girls were introduced to the society by Mrs. Ruth Parsons.

Each girl was presented with a blooming African violet, and a gift subscription to the African Violet Magazine was ordered for their use.

DAVENPORT IOWA

New officers of the Davenport African Violet Society, Chapter No. 2, were elected March 7, 1955. They are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| President, | Mrs. Roland J. Baustian |
| Vice-Pres., | Mrs. L. W. Kuehl |
| Secy.-Treas., | Mrs. O. E. Lindsay |
| Publicity, | Mrs. Ben Schroder |
| Sunshine Comm., | Mrs. Elmer Wulf |
| | Mrs. R. Hudson |

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BALTIMORE MARYLAND

The Baltimore West End African Violet Club of Baltimore, Maryland, held its regular monthly meeting on February 9, 1955, at the home of Mrs. Eliza Holder, at which time the club held its yearly election of officers. The following officers were re-elected for a second term:

President,	Mrs. Marie Tarr
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Betty Tarsey
Treasurer,	Mrs. Katheryn Barnes
Secretary,	Mrs. Erma Shears

The club now has twenty-two members, eighteen of whom are members of the National Society.

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA

On February 24, 1955, the Indianapolis African Violet Club, Chapter 1, of Indianapolis, Indiana, met in Holcomb Garden House at Butler University. Mrs. Chellah Shideler, president of the club, welcomed the guests to the combined Birthday Guest Day Tea in honor of the club's fourth birthday.

Mrs. Ernest Kitch, the founder of the first African violet club in Indianapolis, was made an honorary life member of the club and was presented a beautiful corsage of African violets and carnations, made by Mrs. Nick Suding.

Following the program, refreshments were served. The centerpiece for the table was a large, beautiful heart, decorated with ivy and African violet blossoms of all colors. A small candlestick heart was at each corner of the table, decorated the same in commemoration of Valentine's Day.

The club officers were hostesses.

Left to right: Mrs. Ernest Kitch, Founder; Mrs. Chellah Shideler, president; Mrs. Nick Suding, vice-president; Mrs. Ralph Bidgood, treasurer; Mrs. Melvin Shepherd, corresponding secretary; Mrs. John Pope, secretary.



SIoux FALLS SOUTH DAKOTA

The Sioux Falls Saintpaulia Society of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was organized on March 24, 1954, at the home of Mrs. M. E. O'Connell.

Officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. M. E. O'Connell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. M. S. Casperson
Secretary,	Mrs. R. D. Green
Treasurer,	Mrs. G. A. Schnaidt

On April 7, 1954, the club became affiliated with the National Society. To date the membership numbers twenty-five, eleven of whom are members of the National Society.

Plans are being made for the club's first show to be held on April 16th. It will be the first of its kind in the city.

DETROIT MICHIGAN

The Detroit African Violet Club of Detroit, Michigan, installed the following officers at a luncheon meeting held in January, 1955:

President,	Mrs. A. C. Foster
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. L. J. Biel
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. H. I. Dulz
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. R. B. Reaume
Treasurer,	Mrs. C. Rose

The club meetings are held in the homes of the members on the second Wednesday of each month, each hostess being responsible for the program.

A new idea in programs will be tried this year. The hostess for the meeting will demonstrate her method of culture, showing all implements such as soil, light, propagating medium, etc., used.

BELOIT WISCONSIN

The First African Violet Society of Beloit, Wisconsin, was organized December 14, 1954, at the home of Mrs. Richard Schwerinski, with twelve charter members present. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. D. J. Schindelholz
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Madelyn Stanley
Secretary,	Mrs. Mathew Diderick
Treasurer,	Mrs. Carl Schultz
Mem. Chmn.,	Mrs. Walter Kubach

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members, and they have a membership of fifteen.

WASHINGTON D.C.

The Metropolitan African Violet Club of Washington, D. C., met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shaffer on January 4, 1955.

The following officers were installed:

President,	Mrs. Hazel LaMar
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Eunice Mercer
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Miss Burnis Benson
Rec. Secy.,	Miss Mary C. Countiss
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Wallace Duff
Treasurer,	Mr. T. Robert Valliant

WEBSTER GROVES MISSOURI

The Webster Groves African Violet Society, St. Louis Council, Chapter One, held its installation of officers at the home of Mrs. L. W. McLaughlin, January 20, 1955. The following officers were installed for one year:

President,	Mrs. Roy Smith
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. E. Traubel
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. V. M. Carroll
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. P. G. Marsh
Treasurer,	Mrs. R. A. Duncan

The new president pinned a retiring president's pin on Mrs. M. A. Renick and thanked her on behalf of each member for her excellent work. An interesting program was presented by Mrs. C. F. Schroeder, Mrs. H. F. Wahlgren and Mrs. Roy Smith on "Outstanding Articles from the 1954 African Violet Magazine."

The main theme for the coming year will be "Making a Flower Arrangement with African Violets Predominating."

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BALTIMORE MARYLAND

The Maryland African Violet Club of Baltimore, Maryland, meets the first Tuesday of each month in the members' homes. The November meeting was held in the home of Mrs. Joseph Collins, at which time the following officers were elected for 1955:

President,	Mrs. Curtis H. Brown
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Herman Graf
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Henry Tuefel
Treasurer,	Mrs. Ray Johnson

DENVER COLORADO

The Town and Country Saintpaulia Club of the Denver, Colorado, area, hold their meetings in the homes of the members on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. to enable the husbands to attend the meetings.

The following are the officers elected to take office in September, 1954:

President,	John S. Coryell
Vice-Pres.,	Tom Waldron
Secretary,	Mrs. George Knott
Treasurer,	Mrs. Marion Forrest

LANSING MICHIGAN

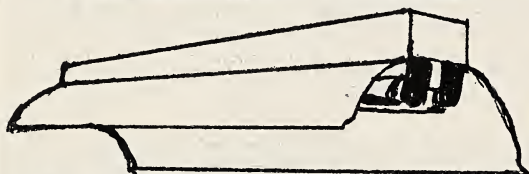
The Double 10 African Violet Club of Lansing, Michigan, elected the following officers for 1955:

President,	Mrs. Carleton Nicholas
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Oral Cooper
Secretary,	Mrs. Clara Smith
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. H. Goldsworthy
Historian,	Mrs. L. B. Roe

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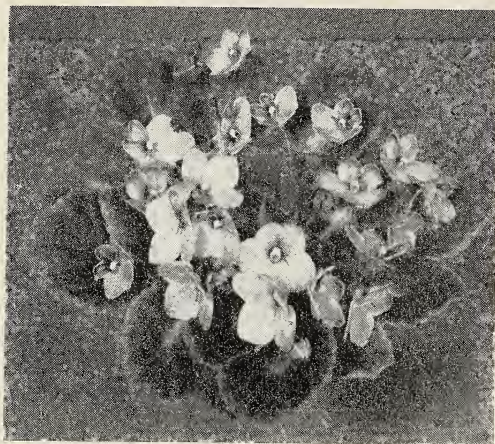
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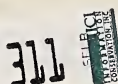
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